

68
clear

boy's

with Reg

years

WILLIAM

Trade delegation back from Sudan

AMMAN (J.T.) — A 10-member trade and economic delegation has returned to Amman at the end of a week-long visit to Sudan and Egypt during which they signed a \$50 million trade agreement with Sudan and another agreement with Egypt for the import of 20,000 tonnes of Egyptian rice for the Ministry of Supply. Under the trade agreement with Sudan, in which each country will have equal share (\$25 millions each), Jordan will export cement, electrical appliances, medicines and other goods and will import meats, maize, broad beans and sesame from Sudan. A Sudanese trade delegation will be visiting Jordan in mid-February for talks with Jordanian officials on the kinds of goods and products which will be exchanged between the two countries. The two agreements were signed by the Ministry of Supply Under-Secretary Abdullah Al Hawamdeh who led the Jordanian delegation.

Sudan to reshuffle cabinet

KHARTOUM (R) — A Sudanese cabinet minister said in remarks published that a government reshuffle was expected within the next three months. Interior Minister Sadeq Al Hussein told Al Ushra daily that the changes would involve: four of the 20-man coalition government, formed last May after Sudan's first democratic elections in nearly two decades.

Arafat in Algeria

ALGIERS (R) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat arrived here Sunday for talks with Algerian officials, Algeria's news agency APS reported. Mr. Arafat, who came from Tunis where the PLO has its political headquarters, said in an arrival statement his visit was linked to Algerian attempts to reunite Palestinian ranks. Algerian President Chadli Benjedid last year proposed to host a Palestinian reconciliation conference.

Israel to help U.S. in Iran arms probe

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel pledged to answer American questions about its role in the U.S. sale of arms to Iran. "If the United States poses questions to us, we will answer those questions," cabinet secretary Eliakim Rubinstein told reporters after the weekly cabinet meeting. Earlier, Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir termed as baseless allegations in a leaked Senate report and a White House memorandum that Israel was the moving force behind the sale of weapons to Tehran (see page 2).

Greece to buy 40 F-16 fighters

ATHENS (R) — The Greek government will sign an agreement with the United States' General Dynamics Corporation in Athens Monday for the purchase of 40 F-16 fighters, a government spokesman said. The deal is estimated to be worth about \$1 billion and will be paid out of U.S. military credits to Greece, informed sources said.

Filipino plane crash kills 2

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — A Philippine Air Force plane with 12 people aboard crashed in the Sulu Sea, the government news agency reported Sunday. It said two people were killed, three rescued and the rest were missing. The Philippine News Agency said the plane, a BN-Islander, was on a flight from Cagayan de Tawi-Tawi to Zamboanga city.

Fire kills 7 in France

CHATEAUNEUF-SUR-CHARANTE, France (AP) — Fire swept through a home in a small village in western France on Sunday, killing three adults and four children, authorities said. Investigators said they were not sure what caused the blaze, but were looking at an old wooden stove that was the only source of heat in the house in the village of Mesnac north east of Chateaufort-sur-Charente.

INSIDE

- * 2 U.S. colonels implicated in Iran arms deal, page 2
- * 8th medical mission leaves for Sudan, page 3
- * Islamic summit has many questions to answer, page 4
- * Arab capital flight and external debt, page 5
- * Garrison defeats Shriver, page 6
- * IEA sees increase in Western oil consumption in 1987, page 7
- * Marcos supporters, leftists rally against new constitution, page 8

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الرأى

Denmark calls for end to Gulf war

MUSCAT, Oman (AP) — The foreign ministers of Oman and Denmark on Sunday urged Iraq and Iran to halt their battles and start negotiations for a settlement of the 6-year-old conflict. The appeal was made by Danish Foreign Minister Uffe Ellemann-Jensen and his Omani counterpart Youssef Ibn Alawi at a joint press conference. Both deplored the "tremendous loss of lives and resources" in the war and warned against continuation of the hostilities or broadening of their scope. Mr. Ellemann-Jensen, who was concluding a four-day official visit to the sultanate, pledged that means of ending the Gulf war would be foremost on the agenda of the European Community when his country took over chairmanship in July. The Danish minister has been discussing the Gulf war, the Arab-Israeli conflict and relations with the nations of the Arabian peninsula on a three-nation tour that covered Saudi Arabia, North Yemen and Oman.

Fierce battle continues in Gulf Iraq says 11 Iranian divisions wiped out 'War of the cities' escalates

By Lamis K. Andoni
in Baghdad
With agency dispatches

FIERCE battles continued on the southern Gulf war front yesterday with Iraq announcing that its armed forces had destroyed 11 Iranian fighting divisions and four brigades, totalling some 50,000 men.

War communiques issued by Iraq's High Command yesterday spoke of major battles to repel the invading Iranian troops from the Fish Lake area on the Shatt Al Arab waterway. The communiques said the Iraqis were sending fresh troops to an area the Iraqis had occupied earlier and which measures about 5 kilometres in length and 2 kilometres in width. But the Iraqis were counterattacking the invading Iranians and were scoring successes, the communiques said.

Meanwhile, Iran launched missile attacks against Basra and Baghdad. Iraq said it countered with a "devastating" air strike on Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's holy city of Qom.

The official Iranian News Agency said 1,000 Iraqis were killed as Iranian fighters shouting "Allah Akbar" drove enemy troops away from the Iranian village of Shalameh on Sunday.

The border outpost is less than 30 kilometres south east of Basra, the Islamic Republic News

Agency (IRNA) said. Tehran Radio claimed Iranian troops killed or wounded 15,000 Iraqis and captured 1,000 prisoners-of-war since the offensive, code-named Karbala-5, began early Friday.

A military communique carried by Iraq's official news agency said Iran lost 250 tanks in heavy fighting late Saturday night and Sunday and Iranian casualties included at least 5,000 dead. The claims could not be substantiated because neither side allows foreign correspondents into the battle zones on a regular basis. But Iraqi authorities were raising expectations among correspondents here yesterday that they might be taken to the front on Monday. This the correspondents took as a sign that Iraq was doing well in the battles, and that Baghdad was confident of success in defeating the latest Iranian offensive.

According to informed sources here, the Iraqi forces have been able to regain positions the Iraqis had earlier occupied in

the area south east of Basra and have managed to contain the invasion in the area to the north east.

In the first day of the 3-day-old offensive, these sources said, the Iranian forces were able to take the positions of five Iraqi brigades located in these two areas and which constituted the first defence line for Iraq.

The major battles are now raging in the east bank of the artificial Fish Lake, the sources added.

According to military experts here, Fish Lake was constructed to constitute a natural obstacle to any Iranian attempt to penetrate Iraqi defences in that area. Moreover, the Iraqis have dumped the whole area with water from Shatt Al Arab. The experts, who know the landscape very well, said the Iraqis cannot have problems containing the invasion but it will take time to drive the Iraqis away.

However, the experts added, the area was open and the Iraqis very vulnerable to Iraqi air raids, artillery shelling and ground-to-ground missiles. The air-to-air missile strikes into each other's cities were described as retaliatory by both sides.

A military spokesman here said a number of civilians were killed and many wounded when the Iranian rocket was fired yesterday smashed into a thickly populated residential area of the capital at 5:55 a.m.

Baghdad sees Iranian offensive as attempt to disrupt Islamic summit

By Lamis Andoni
in Baghdad

THE second Iranian offensive against Iraq in less than two weeks is viewed here as yet another attempt by Tehran to disrupt efforts to convene the Islamic summit which is scheduled to be held on Jan. 28.

According to Iraqi and Western sources here the Iranian attack, which was launched early on Friday was a clear warning to the Islamic Arab states not to attend the summit in Kuwait.

"The message is very clear,"

said one Iraqi source. "The Iranian regime is threatening that Kuwait would not be a safe place for convening the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) summit."

According to these sources' analysis, the aim of the first offensive, which was repulsed on Christmas day was to take over Basra and to score a military victory before the OIC conference.

The idea was that Iran, in the wake of such a victory, would attend the summit and "dictate its own conditions on the Islamic countries and Iraq," the sources

said. But when the offensive failed to achieve its aim Iran decided against attending the summit and launched another attack against Iraq's Third Corps, east of Basra, the sources said. The new Iranian aim is to occupy new Iraqi territory, and thus to disrupt it, they added.

The Iranian forces have been unable to penetrate more than four miles into the Iraqi territory in the new offensive, and the sources said the fighting was now concentrating near the Fish lake in the northeastern part of the Basra

(Continued on page 5)

Israeli tank fire kills Irish UNIFIL soldier

BEIRUT (R) — The commander of the U.N. peacekeeping force in South Lebanon said Sunday that unprovoked Israeli tank fire had killed an Irish U.N. soldier.

"The Irish soldier... was killed by a round fired from an Israeli tank. This firing was unprovoked," Maj. Gen. Gustav Haegglund, commander of the U.N. Truce Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) said in a press release.

"I have vigorously protested this act to the Israeli authorities, who undertook to conduct an urgent investigation," Gen. Haegglund added.

The Irishman, Corporal Dermot McGoughlin, 33, was killed at a U.N. post near Baraachit village on the edge of Israel's self-declared "buffer zone" in the South.

Ireland has protested to Israel and Defence Minister Paddy O'Toole said Sunday he was "dismayed, disappointed and disgusted" over the death of the Irish soldier.

Mr. O'Toole said: "I have grave doubts about the efficacy of our further involvement."

Foreign Minister Peter Barry protested to the Israeli government Saturday night about the incident. Mr. O'Toole told Irish state radio: "We now have direct involvement by the Israeli forces."

"This was a deliberate attack on a United Nations post and has serious implications. I feel it took place in the knowledge that

because of our strict adherence to the peace-keeping role, fire would not be returned despite severe provocation."

Ireland has had a 240-strong contingent with the force for seven years. Mr. O'Toole said: "The question of our future involvement is a decision that has to be taken in the light of what happened in the past and what might be expected to happen in the future toward the resolution of the Lebanon problem."

"In other words, can we or the United Nations expect any success. If the answer is no or maybe, then to me that is not good enough."

In Israel, a foreign ministry spokesman told Reuters: "Needless to say, we expressed sorrow and regret over the death of the Irish soldier and immediately after hearing of it we began an investigation geared at finding out exactly what happened."

Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin, speaking after a cabinet meeting, told reporters: "When the inquiry is ended, we will tell the truth."

UNIFIL spokesman Timor Goksel said Cpl. McGoughlin died after an Israeli unit near Baraachit opened fire with tanks, mortars and machine-guns at an Irish-held U.N. position Saturday night.

"The Irish position commander went up to the roof of the building

OIC reaffirms intention to hold summit in Kuwait

KUWAIT (R) — A top official of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) said in remarks published that the Islamic summit scheduled to start in Kuwait January 26 would proceed as planned.

The Kuwaiti daily Al Sawayah, in a report from Jeddah, said OIC Secretary-General Sharifuddin Pirzada "affirmed" the fifth Islamic summit conference would be held as scheduled in Kuwait, on the fixed date.

Iran, critical of Kuwaiti backing for Iraq in the Gulf war, has asked the OIC to have the summit changed to a more "neutral" venue. Iran has also charged that Kuwait, only a few kilometres from the southern war front, could not guarantee the safety of the three-day meeting.

President Ali Khamenei said Iran would not attend the scheduled summit, and would accept none of its decisions.

Mr. Pirzada said he had received a positive response to invitations to attend the summit from United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar and other dignitaries invited as observers.

Bangladesh has urged Iran to attend the Islamic summit meeting. Foreign Secretary Fakhruddin Ahmad said Sunday.

"We have urged Iran to reconsider its plea for shifting the summit venue on the question of alleged Kuwait support to Iraq. We are still hopeful that Iran's voice would be heard there," he



ARBOR DAY UNDERWAY — Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor Sunday plant trees in the grounds of the Queen Alia Heart Centre at King Hussein Medical City to mark the start of the Kingdom's Arbor Day celebrations. A special ceremony was held on the occasion and it was attended by Minister of Agriculture Marwan



Himood, his under secretary Dr. Salem Al Lawzi, the director general of the Royal Medical Services Dr. Da'oud Hanania and senior medical officers and staff. King Hussein asked the minister about Jordan's tree-planting programmes for this season and underlined the need for developing the Kingdom's agricultural sectors (Petra photo)

Prince Hassan warns of trade war kickback

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Sunday warned against what he described as a "potential global trade war," and said that pan-Arab cooperation remained the only means to help the region withstand the projected crisis.

"The Arab World is approaching the brink of an international commercial war. Their indebtedness is increasing. These dangers can only be side-stepped if a formula for joint Arab action and integration is found," Crown Prince Hassan told a group of more than 25 Arab officials, intellectuals and economists.

"In contrast with the previous times of prosperity, the berated crisis might be the most conducive time to urge the consolidation of joint Arab integration," Prince Hassan said in his keynote address delivered at the opening of a two-day seminar on alternative policies for dealing with the Arab countries' foreign debts.

The symposium, which is organised by the Arab Thought

Toll from accidents drops by 30 per cent

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan's road accidents in the past year were responsible for the death of 362 persons, and the injury of 7,539 others down from 524 deaths and 9,100 injuries in 1985, Public Security Director Abdul Hadi Al Majali announced Sunday.

He said that the total registered number of road accidents in 1986 was 13,701, compared to 16,078 in the previous year. "That reflects, to a great extent, to public awareness with regards to road safety and measures taken by the Public Security Department (PSD) to safeguard the lives of people," Lt.-Gen. Majali said.

Gen. Majali who was addressing a press conference at the PSD headquarters said that his department will continue to intensify all possible measures to reduce tragic road accidents and

(Continued on page 4)

Israel bars 2 Palestinians from attending symposium; extends Al Najah closure

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel has barred a former West Bank mayor and a lawyer from Israeli-occupied Gaza from going to California to attend a symposium, the defence ministry said.

The spokesman said Saturday the two Palestinians, Mustafa Natshe, deposed mayor of Hebron, and lawyer Faez Abu Rahme had not been given travel permits because of suspicions they would meet what he described as hostile elements while abroad.

At least three other prominent Palestinians from occupied territories, including Hanna Siniora, editor of the newspaper Al Fajr, were allowed to go to San Diego for the symposium on the Middle East later this month, the spokesman said.

Mr. Natshe was removed from office by Israel in 1981 for refusing to cooperate with Israeli authorities. Mr. Abu Rahme has been mentioned by Israel as an acceptable Palestinian delegate in future Israeli-Arab peace negotiations.

Several Israeli politicians, including Abba Eban, chairman of parliament's foreign affairs and security committee, are expected to take part in the California meeting.

In a separate development the West Bank military governor extended by seven days Saturday the order closing the Al Najah University in occupied Nablus, Israel Radio reported.

The extension to an earlier seven day closure was made after students planned to demonstrate, the radio said.

No one from the military government was available to confirm or deny the report. Al Najah University was ordered closed for one week on Jan. 2 because of information about planned student protests.

Al Najah, in the occupied West Bank which was occupied by Israel during the 1967 Middle East war has been a focal point of nationalist Palestinian activity and was closed in May 1986 for several days because of student demonstrations.

Peres sees Mideast closer to peace

ROME (Agencies) — Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres on Sunday ended a two-day visit here saying that he thought the Middle East was close to peace than ever before.

"We are close to peace today than ever before," Peres told a news conference. "Many facts in the Middle East have been changing."

He said he had just learned that Jordan had expressed interest in renewing preparations for a peace conference.

Peres, who met Prime Minister Bettino Craxi and Defence Minister Giovanni Spadolini during his stay, said Europe had an important role to play in creating a climate of optimism and

King, Queen leave for France today

AMMAN (J.T.) — Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor today begin a three-day state visit to France.

In Paris, King Hussein is expected to hold official talks with French President Francois Mitterrand on prospects for greater European participation in the Middle East peace process. The talks will also cover means for bolstering Jordanian-French relations.

French officials were quoted by Reuters news agency Sunday as saying both leaders would be discussing the latest developments in the Middle East and prospects for a greater role by Europe to bring about a negotiated settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

However, the source said he did not see any immediate chance of a headway to unblock the stalemate in peace efforts.

French officials also said Jordan's current five-year development plan for Jordan and the Israeli-occupied territories was likely to figure high during King Hussein's talks with the French officials.

France has expressed willingness to contribute towards investment projects as envisaged in the development plan both separately and within the framework of the 12-nation European Community.

After a day-and-a-half of official talks and receptions in Paris, the King and the Queen were expected Wednesday to visit the south-western city of Toulouse where they will call at France's National Centre for Space Studies and state-owned aircraft company Aerospatiale. There, the King and Queen will have the chance to see the assembly line for the European Airbus airliner, of which the Royal Jordanian has ordered 12 at a cost of \$500 million, the French officials said.

On Thursday, the King and Queen were expected to fly to Italy on the second leg of their current tour of Europe.

Murphy: No more arms to Iran

CAIRO (R) — U.S. envoy Richard Murphy assured Egypt Sunday that Washington's secret arms deals with Iran had not produced the desired effect and would not be repeated.

"That was a one-time exception. An effort to probe possibilities for an improved relationship which did not work, and as far as the arms transfers are concerned will not be repeated," Mr. Murphy told reporters after

(Continued on page 5)

U.S. official proposes dropping missile ban

NEW YORK (R) — State Department officials have recommended that the Reagan administration instruct its negotiators to drop its proposed ban on long-range mobile missiles at Geneva arms talks, the New York Times said Sunday.

The newspaper quoted the unnamed officials as apparently saying a ban is inconsistent with the administration's plans to develop two new types of mobile missiles — the Midgetman and MX missiles, which are to be carried on rail cars.

"They argue that continuing to propose the ban damages the administration's credibility with a Congress that has generally supported the Midgetman

programme," the newspaper said. Defence Department officials, civilian and military, opposed the State Department plan, saying the Soviet Union should first demonstrate that it is possible to monitor limits on such missiles effectively, the newspaper said.

The next round of talks was scheduled to begin on Thursday and the recommendation to drop the November 1985 proposal was being considered by the National Security Council, it said.

The Soviet Union has already deployed a long-range mobile missile that is carried on a vehicle and is deploying another mobile missile that can be carried on a rail car," it said.

"Many officials believe that

some types of these missiles must be allowed if an agreement is to be reached."

On arms sales to Iran The New York Times said Sunday Congress must investigate not only President Reagan's knowledge of the Iran arms deal and diversion of profits to Nicaraguan rebels, but his management of U.S. foreign policy and White House attitudes towards Congress.

"Congress will have to inform itself, and not solely of the things the White House wants to know to get ahead of the information curve. For there's more under investigation... than President Reagan's knowledge," it said.

(Continued on page 5)

2 U.S. colonels implicated in illegal Iran arms deal

NEW YORK (R) — The New York Times reported Sunday that two retired U.S. army colonels had been implicated in illegal private arms deals with Iran while they were on active duty in sensitive European posts.

The newspaper, citing military sources, arms dealers and confidential documents, said the army 18 months ago became aware of the dealings, going back as far as 1983, but U.S. intelligence services showed little interest in pursuing the investigation.

The issue of secret U.S. arms sales to Iran rocked the Reagan administration when it became public in November last year. The administration subsequently said the sales got underway about mid-1985.

The New York Times said an army inquiry concluded that the officers had violated conflict of interest laws barring the use of inside information for private gain while on active duty and also bans prohibiting business dealings with U.S. defence companies within two years of retiring.

It is also illegal under U.S. law to sell arms to Iran.

The newspaper said the two, Col. Ralph Broman, who served at the U.S. embassy in Paris, and Col. William Mott, assigned to the U.S. embassy in London, had denied any wrongdoing.

The paper said Col. Broman was associated with a company that was involved in a deal to supply a billion dollars worth of U.S.-made weapons to Iran. It said Col. Mott was a founder of a company in Britain that advised companies doing business with U.S. defence manufacturers.

The newspaper also said in another report that a retired U.S. intelligence official has confirmed that former National Security Adviser Robert McFarlane took a key-shaped cake and a Bible inscribed by President Reagan on a covert mission to Tehran last May.

The newspaper, quoting a person who had read the Senate Intelligence Committee's draft report on the Iran affair, said George Cave, a now-retired Central Intelligence Agency Iran expert who was part of the mission, confirmed these details. Cave also told the committee the group had used 10 falsified passports, believed to be Irish, the paper said.

These details, originally asserted by Iran, have not been confirmed by any U.S. official. The Times said investigators found that the colonels violated conflict-of-interest laws involving the use of inside information for private business while on active duty. The findings were referred to the National Security Council, the CIA and the Defence Intelligence Agency, but no prosecution resulted, the Times said it was told by officials.

A spokesman for the Army Criminal Investigation Command within the last month confirmed an investigation was occurring, but declined to give details, the Times said.

Israel denies initiating U.S.-Iran weapons deal

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said allegations leaked from a U.S. Senate report that Israel pressed the United States to sell arms to Iran were baseless.

"I am not getting into details (but) the main things published in this report ... are false and everything thrown on Israel is baseless and simply not true," Shamir said Saturday night.

In an interview on armed forces radio, the right-wing Israeli leader said he had not read the report leaked Friday to the Washington Post. He said Israel might receive the document within a few days.

Israel Radio quoted unidentified Israeli sources in Washington as saying they feared the Senate report and a document released by the White House on Friday could make Israel the scapegoat for the arms scandal.

The document, a memorandum to President Reagan from then National Security Adviser John Poindexter, said that former Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres was the moving force behind the arms deal.

Peres, now foreign minister, denied the allegations, saying Friday on his return from a 36-hour visit to Rome: "The Americans approached us and we responded positively."

Israel has contended from the start of the scandal that it acted in accordance with U.S. requests in an effort to free American hostages held by pro-Iranian guerrillas in Lebanon.

Israeli leaders have also denied any role in the transfer of proceeds from the arms deal to Nicaraguan contra rebels.

The White House memorandum said Peres secretly

dispatched to Washington his special adviser with instructions to propose a plan by which Israel, with limited U.S. assistance, could create conditions to help bring about a more moderate Iranian government.

Peres' adviser, Amiram Nir, has yet to comment publicly on his alleged role in the scandal that has deeply embarrassed Mr. Reagan.

In another development the Israeli newspaper Davar reported that the speaker of Iran's parliament met in London a year ago with Israel's foreign ministry director-general at the time, David Kimche, arms merchant Yassov Nimrodi and Robert McFarlane, the U.S. national security adviser at the time.

It said Hajjotalestan Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani gave the Israelis a list of 80 Iranian military officials believed to hold pro-Western views.

Among those mentioned, Davar reported, was Ahmad Khomeini, son of Iran's revolutionary leader, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

The newspaper said that as a result of the meeting, Mr. McFarlane recommended U.S. arms be sent to Iran via Israel.

Peres on Saturday denied a report that one of his former aides was the first to suggest the revenue from U.S. arms sales to Iran be diverted to Nicaraguan rebels.

The Washington Post on Saturday reported that Nir suggested the diversion during a January 1986 meeting with Reagan administration officials.

"I can repeat categorically that Israel did not play any role in diverting money to the contras," Peres said at a news conference.

White House reportedly bugged arms sales communications

WASHINGTON (R) — National Security Council advisers in the White House became suspicious that money from arms sales to Iran was disappearing and monitored the communications of Middle East arms agents involved in the deals, the Washington Post reported Sunday.

The Post said Lt. Col. Oliver North, the fired White House aide who has been identified as the key figure in the complex pattern of arms deals involving Israeli middlemen, asked the National Security Agency (NSA), the vast monitoring department near Washington, to conduct the interceptions.

The newspaper said the monitoring showed the Reagan administration had evidence that it was dealing with some shady middlemen in its efforts to get arms to Iran.

But the newspaper said the eavesdropping provided no further proof of one of the most controversial aspects of the Iranian arms sales, the diversion of some of the money to aid contra rebels.

The Post said the monitoring showed constant squabbling among the arms dealers because of delayed payments and confusing payment procedures.

Citing some examples of deals in which money appeared to have slipped between the cracks, the Post said: An Iranian go-between charged \$3 million in interest on a shipment of arms early last year.

This interest was charged on a 30-day advance of \$15 million, a return of 20 per cent per month.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Khaddam leaves for China

DAMASCUS (R) — Syrian Vice-President Abdul-Halim Khaddam left for China Sunday on the first visit by a senior Syrian delegation to the Peoples Republic, official sources said. Mr. Khaddam was accompanied by Economy and Foreign Trade Minister Mohammad Imadi and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Issam Al Naeb. The Syrians were expected to discuss Middle Eastern and international problems with Chinese officials, as well as the development of bilateral relations, the sources added. Syria, which signed a 20-year friendship and cooperation treaty with the Soviet Union in 1980, has had diplomatic relations with China since 1956.

UAE president leaves for Pakistan

ABU DHABI (R) — United Arab Emirates President Sheikh Zaid bin Sultan Al Nahayan left Sunday for a private visit to Pakistan, the Emirates News Agency WAM reported.

Drug smuggling on the rise in Dubai

ABU DHABI (R) — The quantity of illegal drugs seized by police in the Gulf emirate of Dubai has increased more than five-fold since 1983 and a top law enforcement official has called the situation "alarming." Lt. Col. Abdul Aziz Mohammad, chief of narcotics control in Dubai, told local newspapers they seized 2,659 kilos of drugs, mostly hashish, in the first nine months of last year, compared to 545 kilos during all of 1983. He was speaking after returning from the third Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) narcotics control conference in Riyadh, which he said recommended more exchange of information among GCC states on drug matters and increased financial support for narcotics control.

Ethiopia rebuffs mediation offer

CAIRO (R) — Ethiopia has rebuffed an Egyptian offer to mediate between Addis Ababa and Khartoum to end the hush war in south Sudan, saying the three-year-old conflict was an internal Sudanese issue. Visiting Ethiopian Foreign Minister Berhanu Bayeh said after talks with Egyptian Prime Minister Atef Sedki: "The problem in south Sudan is a purely Sudanese problem." Replying to a question on the Egyptian offer, Mr. Bayeh told reporters that Marxist-ruled Ethiopia was prepared to host new peace talks between Sudanese Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi and John Garang, leader of the Addis Ababa-backed Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA). Mr. Mahdi and Col. Garang held nine hours of inconclusive talks in Addis Ababa last July, and Mr. Mahdi severed contacts with the rebels after they downed a Sudanese airliner last August.

Former Iranian deputy arrested

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — A former Iranian parliament deputy has been arrested and confessed he sowed discord among the people, the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported. The deputy, Mowlavi Dideh, said he had "abused his position by exploiting the naivete of the people and the trust of the Islamic government," said the state-run agency, monitored in Nicosia. It said Dideh, a former deputy in the Majlis or parliament, was arrested on Dec. 4 and made the confession in an interview aired Friday on state-run television. The government last month said 40 people had been arrested since late October in connection with a group run by a relative of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's chosen successor. The Iranian News Agency did not indicate whether Dideh, a former deputy from the south eastern province of Sistan-Baluchistan, was accused of being connected with this group.

Small bomb explodes in Larnaca

LARNACA, Cyprus (AP) — A bomb exploded on the roof of an apartment building where a Lebanese man was arrested six days ago, said a spokesman with the explosion caused no casualties or damage in the port city on Cyprus's south coast. But a hand-written note in English left on the roof of the 4-storey building warned there will be more bombings across Cyprus if Ameen Suleiman Zaarour was not released from prison. The spokesman, who refused to be identified, said the bomb detonated at 6 p.m. (1600 GMT) at the Mosfilotis Building only a few metres from a Larnaca police station. Bomb experts inspected the building, but found no other devices.

Gonzalez, Arafat discuss Mideast

TUNIS (R) — Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez, whose country established diplomatic relations with Israel a year ago, had talks with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat Sunday on the situation in the Middle East.

He told a news conference that at the breakfast meeting with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader he reaffirmed Spain's support for an international conference aimed at finding a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

During the hour-long talks at the home of Arab League Secretary General Chadi Klibi, Mr. Gonzalez said, he also stressed the role Europe had to play in the Middle East and the need for more dialogue between Europe and the Arab World.

During a round of European Community "quiet diplomacy" last year, Dutch Foreign Minister Hans Van Den Broek saw Mr. Arafat in Tunis, the PLO's

headquarters, and Mr. Gonzalez said Mr. Arafat rested to him Sunday the PLO position on key United Nations Security Council resolutions on the Middle East.

He said the position remained as stated by Mr. Arafat at the non-aligned conference in Harare last September, namely that the PLO could accept an international Middle East peace conference on the basis of all U.N. resolutions, including 242 and 338.

The PLO has always rejected these two on their own, because they refer to the Palestinian issue only as a "refugee" problem. But other U.N. resolutions support the right of Palestinians to an independent state.

The Spanish premier, who began an official visit to Tunisia on Friday and travels to Egypt Monday, said Mr. Arafat also raised the issue of the long-running "camps war" in

Lebanon and recent violence in Israeli-occupied Arab territories. Mr. Gonzalez said the status of the PLO mission in Madrid, which was effectively raised to the level of an embassy after Spain established diplomatic ties with Israel, was not discussed.

On the issue of international terrorism, which Mr. Gonzalez discussed with Mr. Klibi Saturday, the Spanish premier said Madrid would be ready to take part in an international conference to combat it.

"We must have international action against terrorism and I think Europe has a role to play in this field," he said.

Mr. Gonzalez said he had discussed the Middle East situation, the Western Sahara dispute and the Iran-Iraq war at separate talks with Prime Minister Rachid Sfar. He also met President Habib Bourguiba Saturday.

Turkish aide leaves after talks in Tehran

TEHRAN (R) — Turkey's Deputy Foreign Minister left Tehran Sunday after handing Prime Minister Mir-Hossein Mousavi an invitation to visit Turkey from Premier Turgut Ozal, Tehran Radio reported.

The Iranian News Agency IRNA said Mr. Mousavi, who last visited Turkey in 1985, told the Turkish official, Muzhet Kandemir, that he hoped he would return there "at a convenient occasion."

Mr. Mousavi stressed the need for expanding ties between the neighbours and said "respect for Muslims' beliefs and values can play a key role in expansion of Tehran-Ankara relations," the agency added.

This appeared to be a reference to a dispute in secular Turkey over an order banning women from wearing Islamic headscarves in university classes.

A statement issued by the Association of Qom Theological Professors, a gathering of senior Shi'ite Muslim clerics in Iran's main religious city, urged the Turkish government "to desist from fighting Islamic edicts and not to ridicule what is holy to Muslims."

Moves against manifestations of Islamic fundamentalism in Turkey have been generally endorsed by President Kenan Evren, while Mr. Ozal has distanced himself from the anti-headscarf campaign.

Their apparent disagreement inspired a commentary in Islamic Republic newspaper Saturday entitled "Ozal or Evren — which one is wiser?"

The paper, which is the organ of Iran's major Islamic Republican Party, said the experience of the pro-Western Shah of Iran, toppled by the 1979 Islamic Revolution, showed that applying pressure on Muslims was not an efficient way of confronting them.

'Bonn sold submarines to Israel despite ban'

HAMBURG, West Germany (AP) — West Germany's Social Democratic-led government of the early 1970s arranged for the shipment of U-209 submarines to Israel despite an official ban on such arms exports, according to a recent report.

The two companies allegedly involved, the HDW Werft shipbuilder of Kiel and the IKL engineering group of Luebeck, are also the subject of a current parliamentary probe into the provision of U-boat blueprints to South Africa.

Israel received the submarines during the administration of Social Democratic Chancellor Willy Brandt despite the law banning arms exports to areas of military conflict, the Welt Am Sonntag newspaper. Israel belonged to that category at the time, it said.

A Bonn government spokesman Saturday declined comment on the Welt Am Sonntag report.

The newspaper said the "secret transaction" with Israel was an outgrowth of talks between high-ranking Israeli and West German government officials at the start of the 1970s.

Quoting unspecified documents, the Hamburg-based newspaper said that at the request of Bonn officials, HDW and IKL drafted the submarine construction plans on special letterhead paper of the British shipbuilder Vickers Ltd.

The draft papers were flown to England aboard a Vickers company plane in 1971, and four submarines were built in "arms cooperation with the English" and sent to Israel, it said.

The newspaper did not make clear whether the submarines were partly or totally built in Britain, or explain further Vickers' alleged involvement.

But it said West German government and company officials arranged for the blueprints to be drawn up on Vickers letterhead and sent to Britain to dodge the usual Federal Security Council hearing on an arms export permit.

West German exports of arms and related materials requires the final approval of the council.

The reported deal with Israel will surface shortly in hearings of the parliamentary commission probing the South Africa link.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

EMERGENCIES	NIGHT DUTY
Amman governorate 891228	AMMAN:
Amman civil defence 198, 199	Dr. Issam Hawandeh 624830
Civil Defence Jeddah 271293, 271311	Dr. Fakher Belbeisi 625778
Civil Defence Qureish 707733	Neiroksh pharmacy 625672
Civil Defence Deir Alla 57306	Salam pharmacy 636730
Ambulance 193, 775111	Sahel pharmacy 668056
Amman downtown fire brigade 198	Khalaf pharmacy 776553
First aid 620241	First pharmacy 661912
Blood bank 778303	
Civil Defence rescue 661111	
Fire headquarters 622090-3	TAKIS:
Police rescue 192, 621111, 637733	Khalaf taxi 637725
Police headquarters 639141	Jerusalem taxi 639555
Traffic police 896390/1	Hebron taxi 771000
Electric Power Co. 636381/4, 624881	Basman taxi 892433
Municipal water complaints 77125/8	Merab taxi 770203
Queen Alia Int. Airport (08) 533306/0	Al Saleh taxi 646319
	Kundi taxi 847572

HOSPITALS	GENERAL
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32	Jordan Television 771317/9
Khalaf Maternity, J. Amn. 644281/6	Radio Jordan 774117/19
Akileh Maternity, J. Amn. 644244/2	Ministry of Tourism 642511
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362	Hotel complaints 666412
Mellat, J. Amn. 636140	Price complaints 661176
Palestine, Samejani 66417/4	Telephone information 12
Shamsi Hospital 669131	Jordan and Middle East calls 10
University Hospital 845845/65	Repair service 11
Al-Sadder Hospital 667227/9	
The Islamic, Abadi 666177/37	
Al-Ahl, Abadi 664164/6	
Al-Muhajiroun 77101/3	
Al-Basrah, J. Amn. 77111/26	
Amay, Marja 891611/5	
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50	
Amal Hospital 674155	

ARRIVALS	DEPARTURES
ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)	ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)
06:00 Agaba (RJ)	06:00 Agaba (RJ)
09:20 Cairo (MS)	11:30 Paris (RJ)
09:25 Jeddah (RJ)	11:45 Vienna, Chicago, Los Angeles (RJ)
09:30 Muscat, Dubai (RJ)	
09:30 Damascus (RJ)	
10:00 Abu Dhabi, Kuwait (RJ)	
17:00 Larnaca (RJ)	
17:20 Cairo (RJ)	
18:45 Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)	
18:45 Bangkok (RJ)	
01:00 Baghdad (RJ)	

OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)	MONEY EXCHANGE
06:00 Damascus, Athens (OA)	Local sell/buy rates in Jls
07:30 Istanbul (TK)	Belgian franc 85.1/ 86
08:20 Cairo (MS)	Dutch guilder 157/ 158.9
10:10 Frankfurt (LF)	French franc 53.2/ 53.7
15:00 Kuwait (RJ)	Italian Lira 23.1/ 23.4
19:30 Baghdad (RJ)	Japanese yen (for 100) 215/ 217.1
	Saudi crown 50.5/ 50.9
	Swiss franc 211.2/ 214.2
	U.S. sterling pound 502.5/ 508.1
	U.S. dollar 340.7/ 343.3
	W. German mark 177.3/ 179.4

WEATHER	PRAYER TIMES
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	06:51 Fajr
	06:54 (Sunrise) Dhuhr
	11:44 Dhuhr
	14:32 'Asr
	16:54 Maghrib
	18:17 'Isha

MARKET PRICES	PRAYER TIMES
Upper/lower price in Jls per kg.	06:51 Fajr
Apple (double red and starken) 280/240	06:54 (Sunrise) Dhuhr
Apple (green) 280/240	11:44 Dhuhr
Apple (yellow) 300/260	14:32 'Asr
Banana (Makmura) 250/220	16:54 Maghrib
Beans 280/220	18:17 'Isha
Beetroot 120/ 80	
Cabbage 70/ 50	
Carrot (black) 170/120	
Carrot (yellow) 150/100	
Cauliflower 110/ 70	
Chestnut 700/650	
Cucumbers 430/360	
Eggplant (small) 250/200	

MARKET PRICES	PRAYER TIMES
Upper/lower price in Jls per kg.	06:51 Fajr
Apple (double red and starken) 280/240	06:54 (Sunrise) Dhuhr
Apple (green) 280/240	11:44 Dhuhr
Apple (yellow) 300/260	14:32 'Asr
Banana (Makmura) 250/220	16:54 Maghrib
Beans 280/220	18:17 'Isha
Beetroot 120/ 80	
Cabbage 70/ 50	
Carrot (black) 170/120	
Carrot (yellow) 150/100	
Cauliflower 110/ 70	
Chestnut 700/650	
Cucumbers 430/360	
Eggplant (small) 250/200	

MARKET PRICES	PRAYER TIMES
Upper/lower price in Jls per kg.	06:51 Fajr
Apple (double red and starken) 280/240	06:54 (Sunrise) Dhuhr
Apple (green) 280/240	11:44 Dhuhr
Apple (yellow) 300/260	14:32 'Asr
Banana (Makmura) 250/220	16:54 Maghrib
Beans 280/220	18:17 'Isha
Beetroot 120/ 80	
Cabbage 70/ 50	
Carrot (black) 170/120	
Carrot (yellow) 150/100	
Cauliflower 110/ 70	
Chestnut 700/650	
Cucumbers 430/360	
Eggplant (small) 250/200	

MARKET PRICES	PRAYER TIMES
Upper/lower price in Jls per kg.	06:51 Fajr
Apple (double red and starken) 280/240	06:54 (Sunrise) Dhuhr
Apple (green) 280/240	11:44 Dhuhr
Apple (yellow) 300/260	14:32 'Asr
Banana (Makmura) 250/220	16:54 Maghrib
Beans 280/220	18:17 'Isha
Beetroot 120/ 80	
Cabbage 70/ 50	
Carrot (black) 170/120	
Carrot (yellow) 150/100	
Cauliflower 110/ 70	
Chestnut 700/650	
Cucumbers 430/360	
Eggplant (small) 250/200	

MARKET PRICES	PRAYER TIMES
Upper/lower price in Jls per kg.	06:51 Fajr
Apple (double red and starken) 280/240	06:54 (Sunrise) Dhuhr
Apple (green) 280/240	11:44 Dhuhr
Apple (yellow) 300/260	14:32 'Asr
Banana (Makmura) 250/220	16:54 Maghrib
Beans 280/220	18:17 'Isha
Beetroot 120/ 80	
Cabbage 70/ 50	
Carrot (black) 170/120	
Carrot (yellow) 150/100	
Cauliflower 110/ 70	
Chestnut 700/650	
Cucumbers 430/360	
Eggplant (small) 250/200	

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION	21:00
773111/19	News Summary
	21:05 Evening Show Cont.
	22:00 News Summary
	22:05 Evening Show Cont.
	23:00 News Summary
	23:05 Evening Show Cont.
	24:00 Close down

15:30	Koran	23:05	Evening Show Contd.
15:50	Programme review	24:00	Close down
16:00	Tom Sawyer		
16:20	Soccer: Italy vs. Uruguay		
18:00	Different Strokes		
18:20	Local programme		

BBC WORLD SERVICE
639, 720, 1323 KHz

Committee to review restoration of holy shrines in Jerusalem

AMMAN (J.T.) — An eight-member committee charged with supervising the restoration of the Dome of the Rock and the Dome of the Holy Rock in Arab Jerusalem open meetings Monday to discuss the progress of preparations for the restoration of the holy shrines. The committee, which is chaired by Chief Islamic Justice Sheikh Mohammad Mheilan, will review an agreement concluded with a consultative firm entrusted with issuing a tender for the installation of a fire alarm system in the Islamic shrines and the use of brass plates for covering the Dome of the Rock.

The Dome of the Rock, which was previously coated with lead and aluminium with gold, will now be covered with gold-plated brass.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Sunday bids farewell to members of the eighth medical and assistance mission leaving to carry on relief work in Sudan (Petra photo)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Fayez receives Soviet ambassador

AMMAN (Petra) — Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Akef Al Fayez on Sunday received Soviet Ambassador in Amman Alexander Zinichuk. Talks during the meeting focused on bilateral relations as well as the current situation in the region.

Hamzeh in Geneva for WHO meeting

GENEVA (Petra) — Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh arrived in Geneva on Saturday to take part in a World Health Organisation (WHO) executive committee meeting which opened on Sunday. The two-week meeting deals with subjects pertaining to the implementation of WHO's resolutions and topics to be discussed at the organisation's headquarters in May as well as reports from the WHO's six world regions. Dr. Hamzeh, who is attending in his capacity as chairman of the World Health Society, is accompanied by Dr. Hani Oweis from the Ministry of Health.

Saudi requests more Jordanian teachers

AMMAN (Petra) — Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Education has expressed desire to employ an additional number of Jordanian teachers for the coming scholastic year, Minister of Labour and Social Development Khaled Al Haj Hassan announced on Sunday. He said that he received a message to that effect from the labour attaché at the Jordanian embassy in Riyadh who had been approached by Saudi officials. Saudi Arabia employs hundreds of Jordanian teachers in its schools and the Saudi Ministry of Education recently denied rumours that the Kingdom intends to terminate their contracts.

Science university seeks Saudi loan

AMMAN (Petra) — University of Science and Technology, President Khaled Al-Jumaili left for Riyadh on Sunday on a several day visit to Saudi Arabia. He said in a pre-departure statement that he will hold talks with officials at the Saudi Development Fund on obtaining a 70 million Saudi Riyal loan to finance the construction of the faculties of medical sciences, medicine, dentistry, general health and paramedics and nursing. Dr. Al-Jumaili is accompanied on the visit by the director of the university's projects and the assistant secretary general of the Ministry of Planning.

Majali meets ALECSO director

AMMAN (Petra) — Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Wahab Al Majali on Sunday received the director general of the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organisation (ALECSO), Dr. Muhieddine Saber. During the meeting, the two sides discussed the existing cooperation between Jordan and ALECSO in the educational, scientific and cultural fields.

GFJW event to support Iraqi women

AMMAN (Petra) — The General Federation of Jordanian Women (GFJW) will launch a special programme, under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor, in support of Iraqi women. The four-day programme, which will be launched on Jan. 30, entails a seminar on the on-going Gulf conflict, recitals by Jordanian and Iraqi poets, an exhibition of photographs of the Iraqi armed forces and an exhibition of Iraqi products. Proceeds of the events and functions will benefit Iraqi women's efforts in supporting the Iraqi armed forces. The brass bands of the Public Security Department and several Jordanian youth centres will participate in these activities.

Consultants study Karak's health services

KARAK (Petra) — A European consulting group, conducting a study in cooperation with the Health Ministry on a new government hospital in Karak governorate, and health services in the governorate, has concluded a five-day field visit to the governorate. At the end of their visit, the group submitted a detailed report on the governorate's health service requirements and priorities for upgrading health services provided by the ministry.

CAA chief leaves for Rabat

AMMAN (Petra) — Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) Director General Amin Al Hussein left for Rabat on Sunday to take part in a general assembly meeting of the Arab Civil Aviation Council (ACAC), due to open Monday. The three-day meeting will discuss subjects connected with bolstering inter-Arab cooperation in civil aviation affairs and ACAC's general plan of work for the current year. Mr. Hussein is accompanied by Mr. Bassam Salaitah, the CAA's director of transport.

Captagon dealer sentenced to 8 years

AMMAN (Petra) — The military court has sentenced Sa'oud Musa Ibrahim Al Za'atari to eight years in prison and fined him JD 1,500 for dealing in captagon. The general military governor endorsed the sentence.

Iraqi farmers team visits Aqaba

AQABA (Petra) — A delegation from the Iraqi farmers association on Sunday met members of Aqaba cooperative societies and the delegation's leader Yassin Fada'am spoke about the Iraq-Iraq war and its threat to the whole Arab region. He also exchanged views on future cooperation between Iraqi and Jordanian societies. The delegation later toured an area which has been planted with palm trees and they inspected projects run by Jordanian cooperative societies.

Haj Hassan visits centre for physically handicapped

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Labour and Social Development Khaled Al Haj Hassan on Sunday visited the Amman Centre run by Al Hussein Society for the Physically Handicapped. The minister was briefed by Her Highness Princess Majda, who chairs the society, on its goals, present and future programmes and the centre's various activities.

Mr. Haj Hassan inspected the various sections of the centre and a special school with nine classrooms which offers educational facilities to handicapped students.

The minister also visited the physiotherapy centre which provides services to 158 handicapped patients to improve their ability of movement. The medical engineering and vocational rehabilitation sections at the centre were also inspected by the minister.

Speaking about the centre's present and future activities, Princess Majda said that during 1986 the centre held an evaluation course for students who will benefit from the centre's services during the present year and it also graduated a batch of female students who received training in sewing. The centre, she continued, conducted a comprehensive survey on the students' families to examine their needs and to offer immediate monthly assistance to some needy students so that they can pursue the academic studies.

Princess Majda added that a new section for combatting illiteracy will be established this year at the centre and that the centre will receive a new batch of students for vocational training in the fields of maintaining radio and television sets and that it will also hold flower arranging classes.

Glass factory expected to show profit after obtaining rescue package

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan Glass Factory has taken a number of measures to promote its production to a level of 75 tonnes daily and it will continue to supply the local market with its requirement of tinted and clear glass in addition to exporting almost half of its production to Saudi Arabia and North Yemen, according to the director of the factory's board Farhi Obeid.

Mr. Obeid told a press conference on Sunday that the government has approved the company's procedures and has instructed the company's board to introduce measures that would improve the company's financial and technical capabilities.

This year, the glass factory is expected to make a profit of JD 320,000 and hopes to distribute dividends to shareholders at the rate of eight per cent in the coming year, Mr. Obeid added. He said that the company has just concluded a contract with Egypt to ship a consignment of glass to the Egyptian market on an experimental basis and that all the company's surplus production is being marketed abroad.

Mr. Obeid said that the company, which was established in 1974 with a capital of JD1 million, had to introduce changes to produce tinted and coloured glass panes and had to increase its capital to JD 5 million. The factory, he said, is located near the southern city of Ma'an where a great deal of glass sand is available for glass production.

According to Mr. Obeid, the factory did not start production until 1984 and by that time, the total capital had risen to JD 16.5 million, acquired from shareholders and from foreign loans. The company now produces transparent and coloured glass panes of different thicknesses and

shapes to meet the local market's needs, and the total production now stands at 35,000 tonnes annually. Mr. Obeid added, he said altogether 210 people are currently employed at the factory and that 90 per cent of the workers are from Ma'an Governorate and areas in southern Jordan.

Mr. Obeid announced that the government has decided to write off JD 2.5 million of the company's losses and to consider a JD 3.5 million loan from the treasury as part of the company's capital. In addition, he said, the government has pledged to add JD 2 million to the capital of the factory through participation from the Pension Fund, the Social Security Corporation, the Cities and Villages Development Bank, the Industrial Development and the Housing Bank. According to Mr. Obeid, the government has also agreed that the company pay back interest on a syndicate loan over the coming eight years instead of four and that the remainder of the debts be rescheduled and paid to the treasury at an interest rate of eight per cent with a four-year grace period.

Referring to past performances, Mr. Obeid said that the company faced problems which forced it to reduce its production rate from 75 tonnes a day to a mere 25 tonnes, and that this was reflected as JD 2.3 million in losses during 1985.

In addition to the government measures to support the company, major shareholders have now decided to increase their share, providing altogether JD 2 million in cash to ensure sufficient liquidity and to help the company honour its commitments, Mr. Obeid pointed out. Moreover, he said, five foreign companies have decided to write off 50 per cent of their total financial risks

Eighth medical mission leaves for Sudan armed with relief supplies, drugs

Jordan to assess programme and plans further assistance to drought victims, Crown Prince says

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan said Sunday that Jordan will conduct an assessment of the work and activities carried out by its medical missions in Sudan at the end of the present winter season, prior to embarking on new projects for the drought-stricken country.

The Crown Prince said that the medical missions have offered treatment to up to 700 Sudanese people daily and have carried out no less than 150 surgical operations on a monthly basis since the start of the missions' operations in Sudan.

In a statement upon seeing off another medical mission to Sudan, Prince Hassan said that the second stage involves providing help to Sudan to enable the country to carry out irrigation and agricultural schemes. Contacts are underway with Islamic, Kuwaiti and Gulf funds in order to secure sufficient financing for these projects, Prince Hassan continued.

Jordan's support for Sudan is a

sincere effort to enable its people to overcome their ordeal and to deal with the drought and famine and it also reflects Jordan's total solidarity with the Sudanese people in addition to serving as an example for other Arab and Islamic countries in Africa, Prince Hassan added.

He said that the Jordanian aid to Sudan was greatly appreciated, not only by the Sudanese people but also by the United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF), which considered it as a unique experience. Plans are being drawn up for carrying out similar projects in Mali and Somalia with Arab and Islamic countries' help and cooperation, Prince Hassan pointed out.

The Crown Prince said that the health situation in areas where the Jordanian medical missions have been operating has shown a remarkable improvement following medical treatment provided to the local inhabitants and measures for protecting the environment and drinking water resources.

Jordan is now helping the Sudanese people to restore their water networks and to eliminate pests, the Crown Prince added.

The mission, the eighth of its kind to be flown to Sudan, comprises 10 doctors and four technicians and male nurses in addition to large quantities of medicine needed for the treatment of leprosy, clothing for lepers, books, school materials and other items.

The mission was seen off by Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Sheikh Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat, the secretary general of the Jordanian committee for solidarity with the Sudanese people and other officials.

New law to pave the way for conversion of TCC into public shareholding co.

AMMAN (Petra) — Work will start soon to draft a special law for creating a public shareholding company to replace the present Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) and the actual transformation will be carried out by Jordanian experts, Minister of Communications Muhieddine Al Hussein announced here on Sunday.

He said that feasibility studies on the project have been finalised by a British firm which had been carrying out these studies free of charge.

Mr. Hussein said that a financial firm will take over the process of introducing a new system for computing rates on a commercial basis, substituting the existing system which is being used by the TCC. The decision to transform the TCC into a public shareholding company operating on a commercial basis was taken by the government to promote telephone services to the public.

The minister said. The projected company will require the employment of modern equipment and advanced apparatus to help cope with modern techniques in communications, the minister continued.

The shares of the projected company will be totally owned by the state, but the company will

have independent status with profits benefiting the treasury, Mr. Hussein pointed out. He said that the projected company will have an independent budget, like all other public agencies, but that the budget figures will not appear in the general national state budget.

The minister said that the transformation will save a great deal of trouble for the state in terms of employment because it will employ only specialists whose skills are needed for the work and this in turn will help improve productivity, skill and efficiency.

Applications for lines on hold

The Ministry of Communications has been receiving a large number of applications from the public for telephone lines, and for expanding the existing telephone exchange systems to cover as many people as possible, Mr. Hussein said.

Hindawi receives memo on teaching chemistry in schools

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Arab Chemists Union (ACU), based in Baghdad, has sent a memorandum to Education Minister Thagwan Hindawi dealing with the subject of chemistry at schools and universities, and referring to the Ministry of Education's decision last year to make chemistry an optional subject for tawjih classes in Jordan.

The memorandum said that Jordan, which abounds with mineral wealth, requires the skills and qualification of chemists to exploit its resources and the memo underlined the need for school and university students to study chemistry.

The memo referred to notes the ACU received from the University of Jordan and the Jordanian Chemists Society (JCS) on the issue of including chemistry in the tawjih courses and said that all schools of medicine and the faculties of agriculture, pure sciences and pharmacy require students to study chemistry, and the subject is therefore necessary

for tawjih students at their final school year which precedes the university stage. The ACU memo said the union hoped that the Ministry of Education would increase, rather than decrease, the number of chemistry periods in Jordanian schools.

All school students in the tawjih (third secondary class) have the option of studying chemistry and biology, although the subject of chemistry remains mandatory for the lower classes. The decision, which was taken in the past year, prompted many tawjih students to opt for biology as this subject is generally considered to be easier to study compared to chemistry.

The JCS on Saturday opened a two-day symposium in Amman to highlight the importance of chemistry in industry, agriculture, mining and modern technology. Addressing the opening session, Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Hisham Al Khanb said the government has set up a higher committee on chemical industries.

The income-generating activities will be housed on the sites of the GFJW's offices and meeting rooms for workshops, utilities and the use of facilities will be available to the community development workers.

The development of training packages documenting all the training offered during the projects, with an accompanying trainers guide, should facilitate replication of the project on a large scale, said Mrs. Masri. The International Labour Organisation (ILO), through its Geneva based labour and population team for the Middle East and the Mediterranean, will be responsible for the provision of advisory services in training and provision of technical support.

Mrs. Masri concluded: "We hope that the training these women receive will be reflected in their lives and will raise their socio-economic standard in a manner which would contribute to the human development of their family and the socio-economic development of their community and country."

Organisations work to assist rural women

By Najwa Najjar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Noor Al Hussein Foundation's pilot community development project aims at creating income-generating activities for disadvantaged urban and rural women in the middle-age bracket. The project, which provides training programmes for women in community development and management, is unique in that it is the first national community project where public and private efforts are coordinating their efforts and it is the first time that such a large sum has been allocated to help women, said Mrs. Salwa Masri, the projects director.

In a press conference held on Sunday, Mrs. In'am Al Mufti, director general of the Noor Al Hussein Foundation, said that the total budget for the three and a half year project is \$881,798, funded by the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA). Mrs. Mufti explained that the UNFPA support was pledged when Her Majesty Queen Noor addressed a population conference held in Mexico City in 1984. "During the conference, the Queen expressed her keen desire for women of low income families living in rural areas to be trained and given more chances to take part in the development of their homes, community and society," she said. "A representative from UNFPA visited Jordan and decided that such a project was needed in the Kingdom," Mrs. Mufti continued.

In the early months of 1985, team members concerned with women's affairs and the resident UNFPA expert on women in development conferred with government and non-governmental agencies and produced an agenda for assistance needs.

The UNFPA consultant, the Noor Al Hussein Foundation, the General Federation of Jordanian Women (GFJW), and the women's directorate at the Ministry of Social Development identified several key areas, "but the most urgent requirement they found was the development of a national institutional capability to oversee and coordinate activities relating to women," said Mrs. Masri. When the project design took place the same year, the Noor Al Hussein Foundation was selected as the most appropriate institution for this role with the GFJW, a non-governmental organisation, as the implementing agent, she added.

The long range aim of the project is to contribute towards the attainment of social and living conditions for women in accordance with the national development goals as outlined in Jordan's five-year development plan for 1986-1990. Mrs. Masri noted that the immediate objective is to increase the capability of the GFJW to develop, implement and manage locally-based family life and income-generating programmes for disadvantaged urban and rural women in the middle-age bracket.

Regional coordinators

Mrs. Masri discussed the ways in which the project's objectives will be achieved. "We hope that by April the first workshop for training 24 GFJW volunteers from different governorates will be held," she said. These members, who will be regional coordinators, will be trained for two and a half weeks in programme development, implementation and management both locally and nationally so that they will be able to coordinate the project's activities in their governorates and provide substantial training and support to

a number of locally-based development workers.

The women's directorate at the Ministry of Social Development will be responsible for the choice of community development workers including nurses, teachers and community workers from various ministries. The training of a minimum of 50 workers by the regional coordinators will vary according to the needs of the community development workers and the women at the sites "but it will be about one month training with refresher courses given one day bi-monthly," said Mrs. Masri.

The community development workers will, in turn, implement the pilot projects in each governorate by providing local, disadvantaged women with training in family life, income-generating skills, and formation of production units and cooperatives. "It is assumed that participating women in each site will be no more than 50," said Mrs. Masri. She added that the criteria for selection will include age, education level, interest, and income. "No fee can be charged to these women, because they are only chosen if they are very disadvantaged, with no other working opportunities, large families and little or no education."

Vocational classes

The vocational classes offered to the women will be held bi-weekly and the type of vocational training will be adapted to local needs and will include packages on problem solving, working together and family life, she continued. In addition, income-generating activities will be identified early in the project and will be based on the findings of the market study which will single out the possibilities and include the size, location of the

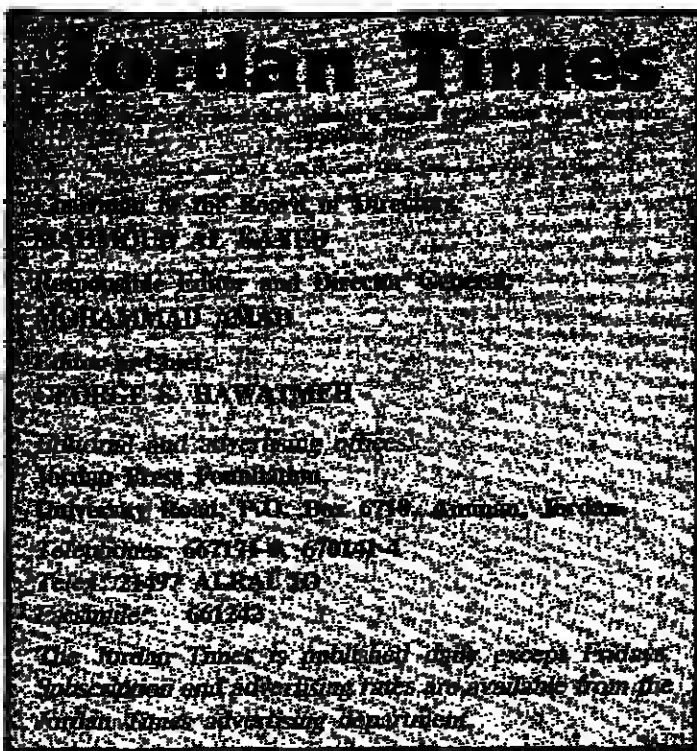


Fresh Italian Pasta

FROSTI-Shmeisani, Near Grindlays Bank

Tel 661508

Frosti



Wonder of 1987

THE year 1987 could very well go down in the annals of our region's history as the year of interesting revelations. Last Friday, the White House released top secret documents which revealed that President Ronald Reagan had formally approved the arms sale to Iran. A day after, disclosures from a U.S. Senate Intelligence Committee report revealed that an envoy of the then Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres, later identified as General Amir Niri, had initiated the idea of diverting funds from the arms sale to Iran to the contras. In fact, the very idea of selling arms to Iran was in the first place initiated by Israel, according to reports emanating from the various investigations being conducted into the Iranagate scandal.

Then comes to our region Mr. Richard Murphy, the U.S. Middle East envoy, ostensibly to repair the damage to U.S. credibility inflicted by the Iranagate affair. How successful a repairman Murphy turns out to be is something that we cannot speculate on at this stage. But interestingly enough, as the U.S. official concluded his talks with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, he told reporters that "this is a time for continued quiet diplomacy. This is the continuation of a constant search for peace among our friends in the Middle East." Then Murphy was off to Cairo, the third leg of his Middle East tour, after a brief stopover in Amman. Meanwhile, Shamir let it be known that Israel was in no mood to make territorial compromises with the Arabs and that his country would not give one inch of Arab territory in return for peace. And to top it all, Shamir insisted on direct talks with Jordan out and away from the proposed international peace conference on the Palestinian problem.

As if to complete the symphony which is being conducted for us in the Middle East by the two famous maestros, the U.S. and Israel, Shimon Peres, the Israeli foreign minister, told Italian officials in Rome that the peoples of the Middle East had never been closer to peace and that now was the time to put the final touches to the symphony of peace in the Middle East. And just to make sure that there were no flat notes, Murphy told the press at the conclusion of his talks in Cairo with Mr. Hosni Mubarak, the Egyptian foreign minister, that the Egyptian foreign minister kept reaffirming Egypt's commitment to the idea of the conference and the need to form a preparatory committee to lay the groundwork for it.

We are only less than two weeks into the new year of 1987, and we already have so many startling revelations and contradictions about events and positions in our region. What the next few weeks, or even the rest of January, hold for us, we do not know. What we, here in Jordan, are certain of though is that no political problem will be solved in the Middle East unless the Arab World moves first to get its act together. Then, and only then, will there be any hope of preempting startling revelations and surprises.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Soviets call for peace

THE Soviet Union has just renewed initiatives for resolving the Middle East issue and ending the Gulf conflict. In its call on the Middle East, Moscow said that a preparatory committee should be formed immediately to lay the ground for the proposed international conference in response to a United Nations General Assembly resolution. Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev has said that there was urgent need for speedy moves to bring peace to the Middle East which, he said, is being threatened with new conflicts. In the second initiative, Moscow said that all possible measures should be taken to settle the dispute between Baghdad and Tehran, and announced that it will put its weight behind any efforts towards achieving this end, and through the auspices of the United Nations. Both initiatives coincided with a new statement by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir in which he rejected the idea of an international conference; and also coincided with a new U.S. move in the region at a time when the Gulf war is being escalated again. The Soviet call on the Middle East seems to be an attempt to end Israel's intransigent attitude and stop further American procrastinations, while the second initiative seems to be directed against ending the Moonshod in the Gulf region because it now appeared clear for all that the U.S. is the sole beneficiary from the on-going war. We believe that there must be a joint Arab, favourable reaction to Moscow's calls and serious Arab efforts to benefit from the new opportunities.

Al Dustour: EC to discuss Mideast conflicts

BELGIAN Foreign Minister Leon Tindemans has announced that a meeting will be held by the European Community's foreign ministers to discuss the role the community might play with regard to the Middle East. But the announcement raises a number of questions and remarks with regard to the European stands over the Arab-Israeli conflict. First, there has been a general retreat in Europe's concern over the issue, something which could be interpreted as indifference and lack of interest as to the on-going events and developments in our region. More often than not the Europeans have been giving us lip-service without a single practical step to bring about stability and real peace to this region which is close to the European continent. Second, the Euro-Arab dialogue which had been going on for some time confined itself to a number of basic political differences, and no progress has ever been achieved. This dialogue was halted altogether with the retreat of the Middle East's oil revenues and wealth and the progressive weakness of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) in which the Arab World used to play a major role. Third, the retreat in Europe's stand vis-a-vis the Middle East was coupled with a similar one on the part of the Arab World itself which, over the past years displayed, no sincere efforts, nor did it show a unified position and a strong will for joint action. For this reason, Europe has relaxed its concern over Arab affairs, and no specific topics have been placed on the community agenda other than a general idea of discussing the Middle East situation. We regret such attitude, but it should be admitted that we have ourselves to blame for this unfavourable situation.

Sawt Al Shaab: U.S. stalls peace

WITH the advent of the new year, the American administration seems to be reviving its activity towards what is called: "Giving momentum to the Middle East peace process." But we believe that Washington's new moves continue to follow earlier and unproductive patterns in its diplomatic initiatives, and its envoys to the region seem to be following the same course as their predecessors in the past year. We also believe that American diplomacy will continue to move in a vicious circle as long as the United States does not approve of the idea of an international peace conference.

Islamic summit has many questions to answer

By Dr. Waleed Sa'di

AS preparations are under way in earnest for the convening of the forthcoming Islamic summit conference in Kuwait later this month, some relevant observations come to the forefront. The first that comes to one's mind in this regard is how different is the Organisation of Islamic Conference from that of the Non-Aligned Movement, which assembles all non-aligned states under one banner or even from the Group of 77 which encompasses all the developing countries under one umbrella. It will be noted that all the members of the Organisation of Islamic Conference with the exception of one country, namely, Turkey, are also members of the Non-Aligned Movement. Likewise, all the member countries of the OIC with the exception of Turkey are also members of the group of 77. What then is the redeeming distinguishing denominator within the Organisation of Islamic Conference which makes it fundamentally different from the groupings that convene under the tent of the Group of 77 or the umbrella of the Non-Aligned Movement?

On face value, the Organisation of Islamic Conference seems to suffer from the same ills which have afflicted the Group of 77 and the Non-Aligned Movement, to wit, as the member states of these two groupings or gathering differ among themselves and between themselves in orientations and perspectives whether in the external or domestic concerns, one finds that the same ailments have also afflicted the Organisation of Islamic Conference. Within the Non-Aligned Movement, for example, it is hard to find a genuine full fledged non-aligned country in the true sense of the word. If anything most if not all are in fact aligned to one direction, policy or orientation or another which have very little in common with the perspectives of each and every other member country of the same movement. Likewise, there is hardly a workable common denominator which bridges the interests of the Group of 77 together. They are for all interests and purposes a conglomeration of varied states with a facade of unity over objectives. Their policies whether internal or external, and whether economic or political are so varied and diverse to the extent that they become repugnant to one another in more ways than one.

Against the backdrop of the preceding premises, one is hard pressed to find the situation is remarkably different within the OIC. The member countries which gather under the banner of Islamic unity and common ideology are anything but united and their respective ideologies are often repugnant to one another to the

extent that some of them are found killing one another not sporadically but rather in a systematic and continuous manner that has lasted, as in the case of Iran and Iraq, for over six years. The one singular culprit in the existing disarray and conflict between the Islamic countries could be traced to the proposition that they have not learned their lessons from the Non-Aligned Movement and the Group of 77. The same facade of shared common destiny and objective which surrounds the Non-Aligned Movement and the Group of 77 also reign supreme under OIC umbrella.

But all is not lost for the OIC for it can still redeem itself by self-correcting and soul searching when it meets again in this year. Since the outstanding common denominator which serves as the raison d'être for the existence of the Islamic grouping is the religion of Islam in theology and practice, the leaders of the Islamic countries would be well advised to place on the top of their agenda the issue of how to make the tenets of Islam more relevant and pertinent to the conduct of their domestic and external affairs. In other words, since all the member countries of the OIC profess Islam, as their guiding light and living standard, it is incumbent on the leaders of these countries who will represent them in the impending Islamic summit to review this matter of how to apply Islam on all fronts with keen and progressive eyes. In order to do so and introduce Islam in a progressive and enlightened manner, perhaps it would be wise to make it the first order of business to pursue this issue within a select committee to be elected by the Islamic leaders. The mandate of any such committee, which will eventually report back to the OIC, should cover such items as the ways and means to effect a workable unity and harmony between the various Islamic sects with a view to serve as a foundation for future true Islamic understanding and cooperation.

Another pressing issue which the OIC could also pursue within the said select committee could be the critical and pressing subject of how to open again the Bab Al Ijtihad, i.e., the door of progressive interpretation of the tenets of Islam which has been kept closed for nearly one thousand years. Some Islamic theologians maintain that the malaise in the Islamic world is organically linked with the long duration closing of the Bab Al Ijtihad — one of the pillars of Islamic Sharia, the source of Islamic law and jurisprudence. The validity of this observation has yet to be tested and scrutinised and there is no better place to examine this issue in its totality than within the OIC in and by its proposed select committee.

On the domestic fronts, the Islamic countries have a lot to do and accomplish in order to get even close to the Islamic sense of social and economic justice. Poverty is more rampant in Islamic countries than in non-Islamic countries, a situation which does not augur well for the OIC. On almost all fronts the members of the OIC are among the least developed and backward countries of the world, a phenomenon which is equally alarming and threatening to the general status of the Islamic countries within the international community of nations. One can no longer gloss over these negative characteristics which paint the Islamic world. It is high time that Islamic leaders address them and address other pressing issues which damage the image and civilisation of contemporary Islam.

On the foreign front, the Islamic world is indeed in a calamitous situation with brothers killing one another in more than one region. Witness if you please the fratricidal war between Iran and Iraq which has already consumed many thousands of lives on both sides of the conflict. The continuation of that war is a living testimony that all is not well in the Islamic world and that something profound and real is wrong with it. Any protestations to the contrary and any facade to the opposite contrary can no longer fool or deceive any one especially the Islamic peoples themselves. Equally grave has been going on for over ten years. The inability of the OIC to put an end to such armed conflicts raises questions about the relevancy of the OIC and its future. One can name many other situations in the world where the Islamic countries have failed to act effectively and coherently thus giving rise to the persisting speculation that the Islamic civilisation is in a deep crisis which has to be addressed and rectified in a head-on manner.

The challenges before the OIC are, therefore, great and fundamental. How it proposes to deal with them will surely determine its viability and relevancy. Otherwise, it will become another loose association of states with only superficialities that unite them and assemble them. The OIC is a young organisation and the possibilities and opportunities which are available to it are wide open. Literally the sky is the limit on what it could do and do effectively, coherently and sensibly. We all pray to God that the forthcoming OIC summit could turn out to be a turning point in the history of Islam and Islamic countries. Amen.

European leadership changes had pivotal role in U.S. relations

By Helmut Schmidt

The following is the second in a two-part article that appeared recently in the West German newspaper, Die Zeit. The writer is former West German Chancellor. The first part appeared in yesterday's issue of the Jordan Times.

AT present, and probably in the foreseeable future, the conceivable degree of independence for the countries of Eastern Europe will depend to a decisive extent on Western Europe's success or failure in the pursuit of its interests.

If Western Europe were to succeed in exerting influence on overall U.S. strategy in the direction of a balance of military power, arms limitation and troop reduction and corresponding agreements with the Soviet Union, would be bound to strengthen the Eastern European countries' position.

Much the same would be the case if the European Community were to succeed in making progress towards economic integration.

The better shape the Common Market and joint European Community monetary, financial and trade policies take, the greater the predictable, positive spin-off for the countries of Eastern Europe.

So it is no exaggeration to say that in the second half of the 1980s the extent of Western Europe's self-assertion will for both Western and Eastern Europeans be the yardstick for the self-assertion of Europe as a whole.

For the remainder of the 20th century the alliance of the United States with the states of Western Europe will continue to be viewed as a strategic *sine qua non*.

Similarly, U.S. and Canadian leaders will continue to view their alliance ties with the states of Western Europe as strategically

indispensable. So there is no real risk of the Atlantic alliance breaking up no matter how often some pundits may seek to shock us with this vision.

Yet opportunities exist, and ought not to be forgotten, of economic and strategic emancipation for Western Europe within the framework of this alliance.

America will remain by far the most important and most powerful ally in military, political and economic terms.

Washington tends to make full play with the U.S. clout both within the alliance and towards the European Community, just as it does at the annual Western economic summits where Japan is regularly represented alongside America, Canada and Western Europe.

Washington today tends to be egocentric and isolationist in its egoism. Europeans must come to realise that such U.S. inclinations tend to be reinforced, and not offset, by European submissiveness.

The evident decline in influence of Western European governments on Washington is due in part to leadership changes in Paris, London and Bonn.

But a more important part was (and continues to be) played by the international economic structural crisis beginning in 1973/74 and, more particularly, by the second round of oil price increases in 1979 and 1980.

Between them they left the countries of Western Europe and the European Community

incapable of a concerted attempt to cope with their fresh round of economic woes and of arriving at a joint approach to America's forthright policy of running up budget deficits that has weighed heavily on the entire world since 1982.

Indeed, since 1981 even progress towards integration of the European Community, which the United States has in no way hampered, has slowed down substantially under pressure from the economic structural crisis.

This is a point on which no illusions must be harboured despite the accession of Greece, Spain and Portugal to the community.

On the monetary front the community was neither in a position to forestall, cushion or offset the wildest vagaries of the dollar exchange rate nor capable, in recent years, of expanding its own monetary system, the EMS, setup in 1979, or its currency unit, the ECU.

On the financial front the European Community, in common with Japan or, for instance, the Latin American countries, has since 1982 had to suffer a large part of its accumulated capital and savings being exported from Europe to finance U.S. budget deficits, leaving investment quotas within the European Community inadequate and continued high unemployment as a result.

Thus Europe today lacks a strategic concept for both security and economic policy. Europe lacks leadership. Its heads of government are preoccupied with unrest in their own chicken-run.

In the past 40 years Europe has more than once enjoyed the benefit of leaders with long-term orientation, such as Churchill,

Monnet and Schuman, Adenauer, de Gasperi, de Gaulle.

Britain today would hardly be inclined to assume the leadership because British mentality and tradition repeatedly make Britons feel maintaining their special relationship with the Americans is more important than their reluctantly accepted identity of interest with the continent.

The Federal Republic of Germany is clearly ruled out as a leading power in view of recent German history and the division of the country.

Various reasons would seem to rule out as illusory any idea of a lead being given by Italy or Spain or the smaller countries of Western Europe.

Those who place their hopes instead on collective leadership being given by, say, the European Commission or the Council of Ministers in Brussels or the "European Council" of European Community heads of government ought realistically to abandon hope in view of the constant harmless inefficiency of these bodies.

That leaves the possibility of French leadership. In the early 1960s President de Gaulle was willing and able to give the lead. Germany would have done better to follow his lead; Italy and the Benelux countries would have followed suit.

In 1963 the opportunity was missed by all parties in the Bundestag, but that need not mean it has been missed for all time. It does, however, presuppose a courageous, strong-willed French leader.

He must be resolved to integrate the French armed forces in a joint Western European defence concept. He must also be able to make out a credible and

acceptable case to his fellow-countrymen for this future French role.

French and German conventional forces alone would be almost enough to amount to an adequate counterweight to the massed conventional forces of the Soviet Union and to strike a balance of power.

A defender does not by any means need exactly the same number of troops as an attacker. There would, of course, need to be a certain amount of extra conventional equipment and, of course, extra defence estimates.

The financial resources of the Federal Republic are, of course, somewhat greater than those of France. They will need to be made available.

There are more politicians in France than in Germany who can lay claim to long-term foresight and they know that in the long term only a close Franco-German entente can firmly integrate the Federal Republic in the West and lend legitimacy to our German hopes.

In the long run that is something the new political elite from the south and west of the United States will not be able to do.

Under resolute French leadership, with Germany firmly resolved to cooperate, three main tasks could be solved by the end of the century:

— Speeding up what at present is a very slow and foot-dragging process of economic integration within the community framework by expanding the European Monetary System and setting up an independent, joint central banking authority first to control the ECU and, second, to ensure the existence of an adequate

counterweight to the dollar and the yen.

— Setting up a conventional military alliance including France.

— Drawing up a joint security and overall strategy.

Once it is clear that Europe's future self-assertion will largely depend on whether and how France is to play a leading role in Europe, the Continental countries will surely accept a French leading role.

The United States too, as the most generous country in the world, would not withhold its acceptance either if only it could be sure that European developments, although they might reform the organisation of the North Atlantic pact, would co-ordinate, not jeopardise, its survival.

After all, the Americans would even be spared the need to maintain part of their military presence, a presence that is growing ever more burdensome, in Europe.

The European Defence Community as planned in the early 1950s did not envisage an American supreme commander either. Soviet political leaders may be shocked by such aspects of this future European development. They are bound to fear the effect it may have on their own empire.

But they would tend to welcome the political and military incorporation of the Federal Republic and eventually come to accept it.

Are these vain hopes, dreams, illusions? The faint of heart and those with a clerical turn of mind might feel so.

But such hopes are no less realistic than the views expressed by John F. Kennedy in 1962 and by Charles de Gaulle in 1963.

Prince urges Arab cooperation to withstand crisis

(Continued from page 1)

Forum (ATF) aims at discussing the Arab World's foreign debts and means of finding alternative solutions to the issue as well as devising ways of protecting Arab investments and reducing the flight of Arab capital.

Prince Hassan stressed the importance of finding ways to help the region's countries sidestep the "shadow of indebtedness" through "Arab-Arab formulae" and by being "able to steer the Arab economy with a comprehensive view point."

"Let us all work towards creating mechanisms and developing bridges that could enable us to pass through such a critical situation. We should plan to ourselves before someone else plans for us," Prince Hassan told participants gathered at the Amman Plaza Hotel.

Official estimates have put the Arab World's total indebtedness to foreign creditors at between \$100 to \$150 billion.

Prince Hassan said that the developing nations have borrowed extensively and are now at a stage of shock or "anti climax," after building high hopes on a prosperous future "during a period in which their volume of indebtedness was growing and enlarging." He said that the majority of developing countries have reached a point where they are unable to service for their foreign borrowings either because their volume of exports has declined or due to a deficit in their balance of payments.

Prince Hassan described the clash between the codes of

conduct practised by the lending countries vis-a-vis their debtors' needs for more loans as "the Catch 22" crisis. "Such a situation has to be solved from its roots since the spill over effect can not possibly be dealt with in the present international economic situation."

Considering that the Arab World has its own characteristics on the international map of indebtedness — as the borrowings and debts of each country vary from another — the oil rich countries which offered their colleagues financial help in earlier stages could increase their financial assistance to the indebtedors.

Prince Hassan also called for the revival of an idea to set up an Arab financial market and to develop such a venture to eventually enable it to provide for the establishment of joint-credit organisations to work in accordance with specific legislations.

"The map of Arab budgets, in contrast to international economic groups, shows that each of these countries has either a surplus or a deficit in its balance, and therefore there should be more efforts to achieve a better balance in each of the Arab countries' standings in relation to these groups," said Prince Hassan, who also is chairman of the ATF's 17-member board of trustees.

The Crown Prince proposed the establishment of a special fund to function under the umbrella of the Arab financial fund or the Arab fund for socio-economic development to "help support the developing countries who are

facing critical financial problems due to their indebtedness." He said that such a fund could also be added to the authority of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB).

The Crown Prince, together with other participants, also urged the Arab countries to depend on the principle of borrowing to finance development projects rather than to secure loans to cover the deficits in their balance of payments. Prince Hassan, together with Dr. Khalil Al Salem, a former Central Bank of Jordan governor, expressed hope that an optimistic scenario could be charted to achieve pan-Arab economic integration.

"Creative intellect and thinking should have more than one scenario and I trust that an objectively pessimistic plan could positively effect the region's indebtedness crisis," said Prince Hassan.

The majority of those speaking during the seminar's first working session agreed with the Prince that mechanisms to help attract Arab investment and capital have to be created.

Prince Hassan also said that cooperation between oil producing countries and labour exporting Arab countries could be achieved and "that this is an issue of prime necessity, since such venues should be expanded through creating joint projects."

He also called for establishing an exchange in informatics and increased cooperation in areas which could offset the deficits in some Arab countries against surpluses in others. "I would like to see the Arab states focus on

trilateralism involving two Arab countries and another foreign country to develop technology," he said.

First working session

During the conference's first working session, papers on "means of protecting Arab investments" and "the flight of Arab capital," were submitted by Mr. Talal Abu Ghazalla and Dr. Michel Maréchal respectively.

The main argument of the first paper was that the only means to protect Arab investments was to encourage their return to the countries of origin. Mr. Abu Ghazalla, who is the president of the Arab grouping for legal auditors, defined the terms of country risk and corporate risk and means of protecting investments through institutionalised and legal frameworks.

Participants who discussed the paper emphasised the need to upgrade the current Arab laws on the encouragement of investments in an effort to bring back all the Arab capital invested in foreign countries.

A lively debate broke over whether or not the political and psychological situation had an effect on encouraging Arab investment abroad. Secretary general of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Abdullah Baharrah, who chaired the first working session, conceded that 93 per cent of the council's investments were in foreign countries "due to political reasons."

362 die in road accidents

(Continued from page 1)

avert material losses.

The fact that the number of accidents dropped last year in comparison to previous years is due largely to the awareness of the motorists and pedestrians, coupled with drastic and deterrent measures adopted by the PSD's Traffic Department," Gen. Majali pointed out.

Gen. Majali said that the Traffic Department last year registered 477,796 traffic violations, up from 404,079 violations in 1985, an increase of about 18 per cent, but the majority of violations were for speeding or parking in a prohibited area.

Gen. Majali stated three points which contributed to the reducing the number of accidents. They were:

— Intensive information campaigns launched in Jordan over the past year for spreading awareness among the members of the public with regards to road accidents;

— Improvement in the condition of roads by the Public Works Ministry;

— Amman Municipality's introduction of traffic lights systems to replace the roundabouts.

He said Jordan hopes to reduce deaths from road accidents to at least two to ten for every 10,000 cars, as is the case at present in developed nations, compared to 50 deaths for every 10,000 cars in developing countries.

According to Gen. Majali, there were 16 deaths in Jordan for every 10,000 cars in the past year down

from 33 deaths for the same number of cars in 1980; 54 in 1975 and 77 in 1973.

"In fact the 1970 statistics indicated that Jordan ranked fifth in order of countries with huge road victims, registering 107 deaths for every 10,000 cars and vehicles in the Kingdom," Gen. Majali noted.

He said there is a dire need for deepening the concept of safety measures among citizens and various organisations, and there is need for intensive information and public awareness campaigns to ensure a countdown of death rates in the country.

Gen. Majali disclosed that his department, in cooperation with the Ministry of Interior and the Prime Ministry, is drawing up a special law for the creation of special courts to deal with traffic affairs.

The present court system "is incapable of coping with the accumulating traffic cases that are being referred to them daily and which sometimes reach 1,000 cases every two weeks," he said.

The accumulated number of traffic cases still pending court decisions now stands at 1.4 million, Gen. Majali noted.

The concerned authorities are also involved in the preparation of certain specifications for car lamps that would avert the danger of very bright lights that also cause accidents, Gen. Majali added.

He said that the PSD and Amman Municipality are working on plans for providing additional road signs to help in the general effort for reducing accidents.

Original Copy

Arab capital flight and external debt

By Dr. Michel I. Marto

The following is a paper presented on Sunday to the Arab Thought Forum seminar on alternative policies to face Arab external debt. The author of the paper is deputy general manager of the Bank of Jordan, Amman.

MANY believe that capital flight on a large scale is among the reasons for the external debt problems of Arab countries. As foreign debt becomes more of a burden on these countries, people are becoming more aware of the capital flight phenomenon. This paper will attempt to deal with the following questions:

a) What is the role of foreign capital in economic development and what are the consequences of foreign borrowing?

b) What is capital flight and how is it measured?

c) What are the underlying causes of capital flight?

d) What policy reforms should Arab governments adopt to deal with capital flight?

The debt servicing difficulties of developing countries have raised many questions about the role of foreign capital in economic development. Until the late seventies there was a general agreement that developing countries could and should borrow more capital from abroad. This consensus has now been broken and officials are trying to find new approaches to deal with debt servicing and economic development of LDCs.

Capital has usually flowed from richer to poorer countries. Developing countries face a scarcity of capital in general and need external borrowing to supplement their domestic savings.

Foreign borrowing has two potential benefits for a developing country. It can promote growth through increased investment and technology transfer and it can help an economy to adjust to internal and external shocks. But recent experience has shown that borrowing also has potential disadvantages. It can be misused so that countries end up with more debt but no corresponding increase in their ability to service it. It allows governments to delay essential economic reforms, it is right to borrow but only if countries follow appropriate policies and invest in economically justified projects.

Countries, therefore, must attempt to obtain the benefits of capital inflows while taking reasonable precautions to avoid debt servicing difficulties. Foreign borrowing was not meant to finance the consequences of large budget deficits, overvalued exchange rates, and measures that discourage domestic savings, all of which bias an economy to rely on foreign capital.

In the early stages of development, returns to

investment are generally higher than in industrialised countries. This is the basic economic justification for developing countries to obtain capital from abroad. This is part of the so-called debt cycle whereby a country starts by being a young debtor, then a mature debtor, after which it becomes a debt reducer, then a young creditor and finally a mature creditor.

Efficiency in the public sector is crucial because public sector investment accounts for a high proportion of total domestic investment in the Arab World. The rapid growth of public sector investment was the precursor to

To stem capital flight, Arab countries must provide a stable political, financial and macroeconomic environment which would go a long way towards reducing domestic uncertainty.

later debt servicing difficulties as too much investment have gone into projects that have failed to generate increases in output.

Government policies profoundly influence the type and volume of private investments in the Arab World. Many governments wanting to promote domestic manufacturing industries, protect them with import barriers and subsidise their costs through repressed interest rates and overvalued exchange rates. The result of such measures is to boost consumption and encourage local producers to concentrate on the domestic market. They therefore neglect exports, further reducing the foreign exchange earnings needed to service foreign debts.

Basically two major shifts in international capital have occurred in the past twenty years: from equity to debt and from official to private finance. The increased lending by foreign commercial banks to recycle oil surpluses in the seventies was the main reason for the dramatic increase in external financing. This was also accompanied by a large increase in export credits. As a result the ratio of debt service to exports rose drastically and the ratio of debt to GNP increased significantly.

The proper role of foreign capital is to supplement domestic savings. It must never substitute for it. Unfortunately, for many Arab countries foreign borrowing has been an attractive alternative to increased savings. These countries ran into debt servicing difficulties and the net result was a further setback to their economic development.

Experience has shown that countries following prudent fiscal policies rarely experience prolonged difficulties with their external payments. A payment crisis is usually preceded by large and growing budget deficits as governments lose control of their budgetary process. There is a positive relationship between growing government deficits and the accumulation of debt.

Large scale capital flight is often mentioned as an important cause of the external debt problems of developing countries and at the same time it is believed that the rapid rise in foreign debt of many developing countries has financed capital flight.

Certainly for some of the major debtor countries the aggregate data for recent years tend to support this view. Capital flight is a serious problem that deprives a country of utilising its resources for growth and contributes to its external debt problems. At a time when a country is importing capital to supplement domestic resources, we find that a large portion of past external borrowing has been offset by capital outflows. In addition to limiting the funds available to finance domestic investment and growth, the debt servicing capacity is further reduced to the extent that earnings on assets abroad are not repatriated.

The term capital flight in the narrow sense refers to short term "speculative" capital outflows by the private non-bank sector and involves "hot money" that responds to political or financial crises, the tightening of capital controls and the fear of major devaluation of the domestic currency. Others define capital flight more broadly as the gross value of all capital exports from an economy regardless of whether they reflect the purchase of foreign financial assets (such as deposits at banks, Bonds, Treasury Bills, shares etc.), real assets (real estate) or direct foreign investment by domestic residents. Some would even consider the massive emigration of highly trained professionals to be a form of capital flight, namely, human capital flight. For the purpose of this paper, the term capital flight refers to the broad definition "gross capital outflows" and excludes human capital.

Measuring capital flight is difficult and this is even true for

countries that impose no restrictions on capital outflows, because of the imprecision with which financial transactions are often reported in the balance of payments. Measurement problems become more difficult in countries with exchange controls. There are some forms of capital flight such as those carried out through underinvoicing of exports and over invoicing of imports. Such capital flight escapes detection and is an important mechanism for evading capital controls. A recent study examined the reported exports of a number of LDCs to the total imports as reported by their trading partners. It was found that the extent of underinvoicing reaches 37 per cent. Between 1976 and 1984, Malaysia's reported exports fell \$10 billion short of their FOB value recorded by its trading

The proper role of foreign capital is to supplement domestic savings. It must never substitute for it. Unfortunately, for many Arab countries foreign borrowing has been an attractive alternative to increased savings. These countries ran into debt servicing difficulties and the net result was a further setback to their economic development.

partners (Morgan Guarantee).

It is not possible to produce exact capital flight figures as they are subject to large errors. Balance of payments statistics are not sufficiently reliable to justify some of the refined methods applied. However, despite these measurement problems some rough useful estimates are possible.

Various studies have attempted to calculate the size of capital outflows of high debt developing countries by using indirect methods. In one study (Dooley and others) estimates of gross private capital outflows were reached by subtracting from reported changes in gross external indebtedness, the current account deficit and changes in net foreign assets of the Central Bank and the Commercial banks. Another study (Morgan Guarantee) used this methodology with a minor refinement. A third study (Institute of International Finance) estimates capital flight as the difference between total debt-creating capital inflows and identified capital outflows. For a similar group of Latin American countries, the estimates by Morgan correspond to those of the I.F. But the estimates for a similar group of Asian countries differ significantly with net asset flows amounting to \$4 billion by the I.F. and \$12 billion by Morgan. In another study (Cuddington) capital flight was defined as gross private short term capital flows plus net errors and omissions in the country's balance of payments. It is argued that the major evidence of capital flight is often in the "errors and omissions" item in the Balance of Payments accounts which reflect in large part unrecorded capital flows.

By comparing the total changes in external indebtedness with the total current account deficits, it

becomes clear that not all external debt was absorbed domestically. All the studies show that the increase in total external debt for all countries surveyed to be larger than the total current account deficits even after adjusting for changes in reserves. As a proportion of the increase in external indebtedness, the estimates of capital flight range between 10 per cent to nearly 95 per cent and the average for all countries is about 35 per cent.

Another study estimates total capital flight of the private sector of 5 major Latin American countries to more than 53 per cent of their foreign borrowing. In such cases, foreign borrowing is a recipe for disaster.

Although the various methods of calculating capital flight are not very accurate and differ from one another, they nonetheless yield some useful orders of magnitude. It is therefore fair to conclude that capital outflows are significant and that a part of increased external debt reflects capital flight.

The Arab World has many "extremely wealthy" individuals as well as many more "high networth individuals". These extremely wealthy figure amongst the richest individuals in the world and their personal assets dwarf those of some small countries. The rich in the Arab World have invested their accumulated wealth mostly in foreign assets in order to obtain an optimum combination of risk, return and liquidity, anywhere in the world where such opportunities presented themselves. They mostly invest abroad to protect their assets as they expect a risk free return on their foreign investments. Most of their domestic investments are carried out with domestic borrowing.

No attempt is made in this paper to estimate Arab capital flight although it is a simple arithmetic calculation using any of the methods presented above. This is because once estimates are produced, these are readily accepted and after repeating them a number of times, and in particular if they are quoted, they tend to be treated as authoritative.

Capital flight is an important phenomenon when countries undergo a number of major political and economic changes. As a result there is a serious deterioration in fiscal discipline. The public sector deficits rise as a percentage of GNP and inflation rate accelerates.

Large public sector deficits are not only unsustainable, but also produce an inefficient allocation of resources. Rapid increases in public spending are rarely implemented efficiently. A large deficit is recorded in the current account of the balance of payments and the country's foreign exchange reserves decrease. Foreign exchange transactions get restricted and balance of payments problems occur.

Lack of confidence in the government's economic management policy and in the domestic financial system encourage capital flight.

It also occurs when the expected returns from holding money abroad are higher or safer than at home.

It is usually associated with several factors: an overvalued exchange rate which makes foreign assets seem cheap, but also causes fear of devaluation; high and variable inflation which creates uncertainty and reduces real interest rates; repressive financial policies which maintain real interest rates at low or negative levels.

An overvalued exchange rate and the anticipation of a sharp correction is the most important cause. At some point a real

devaluation appears inevitable and this further encourages capital outflows and puts added pressure on the exchange rate. The most noteworthy feature of the results of various studies is that the extent of currency overvaluation is a highly significant determinant of capital flight in all countries where it occurred on a large scale.

To stem capital flight, Arab countries must provide a stable political, financial and macroeconomic environment which would go a long way towards reducing domestic uncertainty. Fiscal deficits must be eliminated, real interest rates should be positive and exchange rates should reflect the real value of the currency.

The provision of suitable financial assets at attractive rates may also help reduce capital flight. It may be worth considering the creation of foreign currency denominated financial assets for residents.

It may not be possible for governments to prevent all private capital outflows because some of the causes are beyond their control. What Arab governments can do is to try to change the existing incentives in the economy so as to minimise capital flight and direct more resources, both domestic and foreign, towards expanding the productive base of the economy. There is of course no single set of policies that is right for all countries. The experience of developing countries emphasise certain basic lessons for policy. The most critical changes in the short-term are the ability to reduce fiscal deficit and adjust real exchange rates and real interest rates. If countries cannot adjust their policies for political or other reasons, they should limit their resorting to foreign borrowing.

A formal ceiling on borrowing is useful. It encourages discipline and helps to focus official attention on central macroeconomic questions. Official borrowing rules can be particularly helpful if they cover military expenses and projects that for political reasons are not always easy to control.

Policies required to make best use of external finance are essentially the same as those that make best use of domestic resources. A country must earn a return on its investment which is higher than the cost of resources used. In the case of foreign finance, a country must also generate enough foreign exchange to cover interest payments and principal. The correct role of external debt is to supplement and not substitute for domestic savings. If governments increase their budget deficit as a proportion of GNP and finance it partly by external debt, they sow the seeds for debt crisis and further capital flight.

The question remains whether any significant portion of the capital would return in case of proper macroeconomic programme at home. Experience indicates that this is not the case. When capital leaves it never comes back. It is fair to say that if the rich of the Arab World brought home their money, but the interest earned on it, the Arab World's debt servicing would be so much easier.

I have one final observation to make. It is unfortunate that in the Arab World where the private sector is asking to play a higher role, capital flight has caused a legitimate crisis for such a role to be played by the private sector. At the same time the general public has become increasingly unwilling to bear a large debt burden as it has become clear that the growth of public sector debt facilitated the amassing of foreign assets by the privileged classes in society.

Randa Habibs Corner

The right atmosphere

If you were a tourist, or a businessman passing through Jordan, you would wish, of course, to find a good and comfortable hotel in Amman. Effective telephone lines and tele services and precise messages, are among the necessities that a businessman expects to find in the hotel of his choice.

However, in addition to all the basics, it would be nice for a foreigner to discover a Jordanian ambience in the hotel where he stays. Something that immediately gives the feeling of Jordan. In a good hotel one should be able to get acquainted with the major characteristics of a country by just sitting in the lobby of that hotel. Unfortunately, in Amman, we do not have a single hotel that has this advantage.

Doormen in Arabic dress or Jordanians offering Arabic coffee in the lobby, can be seen in few good hotels in Amman. They are a nice touch, but not enough. The mistake is basically that our hotels do not reflect an Arab or Jordanian architectural outlook, nor even a Jordanian ambience on the inside. Our lobbies lack character and all look like those of any hotel anywhere in the world.

And where are our Jordanian restaurants? A hotel with two or three dining rooms, should have one Jordanian restaurant with typical Jordanian food, offered by waitresses in Jordanian dress. Why not even push the details to the extent of having ladies preparing the bread in front of the diners, while a man beats the coffee grains, all to the sound of Jordanian songs? I am sure that tourists would love to have at least one Jordanian meal in a Jordanian atmosphere. If they don't have it in Jordan, where will they get it? And for those who are not keen on change, one of the other restaurants in the hotel or the coffee-shop is always there to serve international food.

UNIFIL soldier killed

(Continued from page 1)

and fired two flares to show that the position was occupied by UNIFIL troops," Goksel said.

"But as he was coming down, another tank round exploded in a room where the soldier was resting. The position was seriously damaged and the firing continued for 10 minutes," he added.

Cpl. McGlothin's body was later flown to UNIFIL headquarters at Naqura near the border. He was the 21st Irish soldier to die in Lebanon and the 139th fatality suffered by UNIFIL since it deployed in 1978 after an Israeli invasion of the South.

Three Israeli helicopter gunships machine-gunned dirt roads around four villages in South Lebanon, apparently as part of measures to counter attacks by pro-Iranian Shiite Muslim Hizbollah guerrillas, police said.

They said the helicopters strafed the tracks around the Shi'ite villages of Haris, Haddatha, Kafra and Yaur in the central border area, but inflicted no casualties.

(A military spokesman in Tel Aviv said no Israeli helicopters had been in action over Lebanon Sunday).

In a separate development in Damascus, Lebanon's Shi'ite Muslim Amal militia leader Nabih

Berri Sunday threatened to step up military action against Palestinian commandos loyal to Mr. Yasser Arafat and said Arafat League mediation would not end Lebanon's "camps war."

"We appeal for the last time to our Palestinian brothers to withdraw from Maghdousheh village... or else we will drive them by force," Mr. Berri told a news conference in Damascus.

In Beirut, police, reported sniper and grenade fire at the battered Shatila and Bourj Al Barajneh settlements, despite renewed Iranian pressure for a ceasefire.

At least 700 people have been killed by the conflict, now in its 16th week. Palestinian sources said one man was killed and four people were injured in sporadic flare-ups Sunday.

An Iranian peace drive was set back last month when Mr. Arafat's Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) commandos refused to withdraw from strategic hill-top positions at Maghdousheh captured in fierce battles with Amal.

The Palestinians seized Maghdousheh, outside the sprawling Ain Al Hilweh refugee camp near Sidon, to try to force Amal to lift a siege of the two Beirut shanty towns and of Rashidiyeh Camp near Tyre in the far south.

Murphy: No arms to Iran

(Continued from page 1)

meeting President Hosni Mubarak.

Mr. Mubarak and King Hussein, whom Mr. Murphy met in Amman during his current tour of the Middle East, have criticised the secret arms sales, and said Washington had lost credibility in the region.

Jordan and Egypt support Iraq in its six-year-old war against Iran. Mr. Murphy, who has also visited Israel, said he carried no new proposals for Middle East peace but added that Washington was seeking to "bridge differences to get progress."

He said: "We're trying to find if there is a strong enough agreement between the several parties to move ahead on what everybody knows are very difficult issues without easy solutions."

Mr. Murphy was in Egypt last

September when Mr. Mubarak and then Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres held their first summit and agreed in principle to set up a committee to prepare for an international peace conference.

Egypt still believes a preparatory committee would resolve differences and set the stage for an international conference to be attended also by the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council.

"We do not see the value in a preparatory committee that would involve the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council," Mr. Murphy said Saturday after arriving in Cairo from his second trip to Amman.

"What we are interested in is a peace settlement, achieved through direct negotiations," he added, echoing Israel's policy of seeking direct talks with Arab states.

Iranian attack to disrupt OIC summit

(Continued from page 1)

area. The sources explained that the Fish lake near the borders is actually an artificial lake created by the Iraqi army to impede any Iranian attempt to invade and penetrate through Iraqi territory to Al Noufa town, north of Basra, and then to Basra itself. The lake is believed to be three kilometres long and five kilometres wide, and the main Iraqi goal now is not to allow the Iranians from crossing it to the other side.

The new element in the new Iranian offensive, according to military experts here, is that it is concentrated on a narrow border strip, which means that the aim was to penetrate as far as possible in the depth of Iraqi territory.

According to these experts, the Iranians could also be trying to achieve one of two goals or both together:

First, to reach the Baghdad-Basra highway, which is estimated to be 18 kilometres away from the west bank of the Fish lake, and consequently cut off Basra from the rest of Iraq.

Second, to encircle Basra, which has been under heavy and continuous shelling, as a prelude to capture it.

Although military experts and other well-informed sources differ on the length of the front which has been the target of the new Iranian attack, it is estimated to be between 21 and 45 kilometres long. The Iranians, in the view of the experts, have chosen the most difficult area for their offensive. This area, which is known as Shalah, is an extremely muddy and swampy area. But unlike Majnoon Island, which the Iranians were able to penetrate in 1984, the Shalah swaps are not

flat, which has made the battle extremely difficult for both and especially for the Iraqis. According to the sources, the Iranians had been able to infiltrate on many axes in that area, but only to be confronted by Iraqi soldiers who fought hand-to-hand battles in which bayonets were used.

'Cities war' escalates

Meanwhile, the Iran-Iraq war has also taken another dangerous dimension as both sides escalated their "cities war". Iraq, which had refrained from retaliating against Iranian shelling of civilian targets for the last six months, retaliated for the first time on Friday by shelling two Iranian towns. There was a new Iraqi attack against the city of Qom on Sunday.

In his strongest warning to the Iranians yet, President Saddam Hussein threatened last week that the Iraqi forces "would wipe out whole Iranian cities if the Iranians continued attacking Iraqi cities."

Iraqi official sources later said that Iraq was "extremely serious and would not hesitate to execute" its threat.

"The attacks against Iranian cities in the past few days were only a warning," an official source told the Jordan Times. "Our comprehensive reply is yet to come." According to widespread reports here, the Iraqis have acquired very sophisticated Soviet-made, ground-to-ground SS12 and SS 21 missiles, and some diplomats suggest that the missiles which hit two Iranian cities on Friday and Saturday were actually launched from sites near Baghdad. Two explosions were heard in Baghdad on Friday noon, but Iraqi television reported that they were not explosions, but "superonic booms" made by

Iraqi aircraft which were headed to the front.

Iraqi officials refused to confirm the reports about the new Soviet-made missiles, acquired by Iraq, but said in a reply to a question: "We have enough weapons to carry out our threats against Iran."

Despite the fact the battle is not over yet, Iraq seems confident of its position. Furthermore, Iraq does not seem worried that its resumption of attacks against Iranian cities would affect its political standing, despite the fact that it had signed an agreement with the Iranian opposition, specifically the Mujahideen Khalq, not to do so.

According to official sources, Iraq feels that Arab and Islamic countries would understand that it could not have remained silent while Iran continued to shell its cities.

Army or Revolutionary Guards?

It was not clear until Sunday whether the current offensive was carried out by the Iranian regular army or the Revolutionary Guards, but one theory endorsed by diplomats here is that the regular army is executing the latest offensive. The argument is that the Iranian failure two weeks ago reflected a defeat of the mullahs since the Revolutionary Guards were heavily involved in it. "There has always been a competition between the military institution and the mullahs, represented by the guards, so if there was a victory, the military would become stronger in Iran. "But if they were defeated a balance of power will emerge," one well-informed diplomat said.

U.S. official proposes dropping missile ban

(Continued from page 1)

"In question also is his management of foreign policy, including his pledge not to pay ransom to terrorists and his runarounds with Congress over aiding the Contras."

Versions of a Senate Intelligence Committee's report on the Iran affair and documents that have been made public show "humiliating evidence of its

(White House) foreign policy ineptitude" and "that the administration knew it was engaged in a crude hostages-for-arms swap and not a move toward Iranian moderates," the newspaper said.

The disclosures also betrayed "deep administration cynicism toward Congress," it said.

It questioned why Assistant Secretary Elliott Abrams made no effort to find out what had

happened to \$10 million in humanitarian aid to the Nicaraguan contras promised by the Sultan of Brunei.

"Only after the Iran-contras scandal broke last November did Mr. Abrams learn that the funds had been deposited after all. But where did the money go from there? One possibility is that it was used to finance the Iran arms deals, a bizarre twist on the already scandalous diversions."

RESTAURANT CHINA
The first & best Chinese Restaurant in Jordan
1st Circle, Jabal Amman, near Ahlyyah Girls School
Take away is available
Open daily 12:00-3:30 p.m.
6:30 - Midnight
Tel. 638968

CHINESE RESTAURANT TAIWAN TOURISMO
Authentic Chinese food
Friendly service
Convenient location
Also take-away service
Open daily: Noon - 3:30 p.m. & 6:30 p.m. - midnight
Location: Near 3rd Circle, opposite to Akidiah Hospital
Tel: 641083

EVERY DAY
PEOPLE WHO NEED
MAINTENANCE SERVICES
CALL US!
Electrolux
P.O. Box 925229 AMMAN
Tel. 604671

CORFU GREEK TAVERNA
The First and Only Greek Restaurant in Jordan
TODAY
AND EVERY NIGHT
Live Music
ZORBA THE GREEN.
LOCATED: JABAL AMMAN, 2ND CIRCLE
OPP. FRENCH LOAF
TEL. 641585 NO COVER CHARGE

CHINA RESTAURANT
NEXT TO GRINDLAYS BANK
Take away service available
Open daily 11:30 - 3:30 and 6:30 - 11:00
AQABA
Tel: 03-314415

CROWN INTERNATIONAL ESTABLISHMENT
packing, shipping, forwarding, international moving, storage, clearing, door-to-door service
Agents all over the world
Tel: 664090-660852
P.O. Box 22647 AMMAN JORDAN

NEW SERVICE FOR EXPATRIATES
We are able to advise and follow up on all your governmental procedures.
• Work Permits.
• Residence Permits.
• Renewal of all licences.
• Visas for visitors.
Let your headache become mine.
Tel: 604088
Ali Rawashdeh.

CHEN'S CHINESE RESTAURANT
Mecca Street, Yarmouk Engineers' Housing Estate, near Kilo Supermarket
Mongolian Barbeque for lunch and dinner FRIDAY
Tel: 818214
Come and taste our specialties
Open daily 12:00-3:30 p.m. 6:30 - Midnight

慕堂餐廳 MANDARIN Chinese Restaurant
The only typical Chinese cuisine in Amman.
Fully Airconditioned
Take away available
Open daily 12:00 - 1:30 18:00 - 23:30
Wadi Sagra Road - near Traffic Bridge
Amman, Jordan
Tel: 661922

To advertise in this section
Call 667171-6 670141-4 ext. 223

Garrison dominates injured Shriver for NSW Open win

SYDNEY, Australia (Agencies) — Zina Garrison pounded out a 6-2, 6-4 victory over fellow-American Pam Shriver Sunday to win the \$150,000 New South Wales Open women's tennis championship.

The sixth-seeded Garrison, 23, of the Houston, returned superbly to negate Shriver's big serve, punched her groundstrokes on both the forehand and backhand sides, and volleyed excellently.

Shriver, the no. 2 seed, was hampered by a nagging hamstring injury to her right leg and was completely outclassed by her aggressive and mobile opponent.

Garrison collected \$26,000 in winning her first major tournament in more than a year, while Shriver collected \$13,000.

It was Shriver's second successive loss in a final. She was beaten by Hana Mandlikova of Czechoslovakia in last week's Brisbane title match.

The lanky Lutherville, Maryland, right-hander also suffered her second loss in the final of the New South Wales event. She was beaten by Wendy Turnbull of Australia in the final in 1980 after holding six match points.

"Zina played three of the finest matches this week I've seen her play," Shriver conceded after the

match. "I was outplayed and she deserved to win."

Garrison took just 68 minutes to wrap up the Virginia Slims series grass court final, the last lead-up event to the Australian Open, which begins Monday at Kooyong in Melbourne.

"I used the shots I had and worked with my strengths," said Garrison.

"This is the best win of my career on grass, a surface on which you have to be really athletic."

Shriver still has a 3-2 career edge over Garrison.

Garrison broke Shriver's serve in the second and eighth games of the first set, the initial break coming when Shriver double-faulted.

Shriver's shots seemed poorly measured, while Garrison kept her at full stretch, moving her around the court. And when Shriver did come to the net, Garrison frequently passed her.

Shriver rallied briefly in the second set to lead 4-2. But Garrison reeled off four straight games to close out the match.

Garrison said the victory, her first big win since the 1985 European indoor tournament at Zurich 15 months ago, was her best ever on grass.

The 23-year-old Texan, the world number 11, said she had high hopes for the Australian Open.

Shriver, the world number five, injured a hamstring in a match two days ago and never showed the sparkling form which took her to the final.

Shriver sought assistance from her trainer twice during the first set, but she said the hamstring wasn't bothering her and eventually recovered the heavy strapping protecting the injury.

"It wasn't a factor whatsoever. I can't figure out why I didn't have that extra zip," she said.

Third seeds Liz Smylie of Sydney, and American Betsy Nagelsen heat unseeded Australian teenagers Jenny Byrne and Janine Thompson 6-7 (7-5), 7-5, 6-1 to take the doubles title.

Byrne and Thompson, who earlier in the week defeated top seeds Claudia Kohde-Kilsch and Helena Sukova, battled gamely but couldn't complete in the end against their more experienced opponents.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Prince Mohammad receives chess delegation

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, the personal representative of His Majesty King Hussein and the president of the Royal Jordanian Chess Federation, Sunday received the Jordanian chess delegation who took part in the fourth Arab Chess Championship which concluded in Tunis recently. Prince Mohammad presented a meritorious award to Jordanian international chess player Bahjat Al Remawi who won a silver medal in the championship. Prince Mohammad also was informed that the Arab Chess Federation general assembly decided to award him a medal of honour in recognition of his efforts to spread the chess game in Jordan and abroad. The vice-president of the Royal Jordanian Chess Federation Abdul Malek Anafat also received a medal as one of the founders of the Arab Chess Federation.

Maradona wins Latin American award

HAVANA (R) — The "Golden Boy" of Argentinean soccer, Diego Armando Maradona, was chosen as Latin America's outstanding athlete of 1986 in a poll of Latin American news media conducted by the Havana-based news agency, Prensa Latina. Maradona won eighty two of the ninety four votes for first place. The trophy, with Maradona's name etched on it, was presented to the Argentinean ambassador in Havana. Prensa Latina said it would be kept at the embassy of Argentina until Maradona makes a promised visit to Havana.

Rolls-Royce plows into fans

ARCADIA, California (AP) — A Rolls-Royce veered out of control and plowed into a crowd of horse racing fans leaving Santa Anita park late Saturday, injuring 14 people, authorities said. The accelerator on the 1984 car apparently stuck on the floor matting, said police agent Ron Bailey. The driver, Edward Goldstein, 75, of Los Angeles was questioned but not cited or detained, he said. The accident occurred outside Santa Anita's fashionable Turf Club about 5 p.m. (10100 GMT Sunday), shortly after the last race of the day. Seven people were taken to Methodist Hospital of Southern California for treatment of injuries ranging from superficial to serious, said Bailey. Hospital officials said none of seven was admitted to the facility.

U.S. captures 1st in water polo

PONCE, Puerto Rico (AP) — The United States captured its first Pan American Youth Water Polo Championship Saturday night by defeating Argentina 17-5. Cuba took the silver medal while Brazil won the bronze. The U.S. team lost its first match to Brazil, 13-11. Then they won seven straight games, matching Cuba's record. The United States beat the Cubans, 11-10. The U.S. squad was awarded the gold on the basis of its goal average.

Aussie Cash thinks Becker is favourite

MELBOURNE, Australia (R) — Australian Davis Cup star Pat Cash believes twice Wimbledon champion Boris Becker, will win the Australian Open on the grass courts at Kooyong. Becker's game had improved dramatically since his first Wimbledon victory two years ago, Cash said, and his game was more naturally suited to grass than world number one Ivan Lendl. Lendl, the French and U.S. Open champion, has been in Australia for a month acclimating to grass, not his favourite surface. "Becker's more solid on his volleys now," Cash said. "I was surprised when he won Wimbledon the first time because I didn't think his volleys would stand up to it."

West takes 2 U.S. college bowls

STANFORD, California (AP) — Colorado State quarterback Kelly Stouffer completed his first nine passes, including touchdown bombs of 34 and 48 yards, to lead the West to a 24-21 victory Saturday in the 62nd annual East-West Shrine Football Classic. Meanwhile in Honolulu, All-American Jeff Jaeger of Washington, who kicked more field goals than anyone in the history of major-college football, booted a record-tying three, more Saturday to lead the West to a 16-14 victory over the East in the 41st annual Hula Bowl.

Leeds survives upset threat in FA Cup

WEST BROMWICH, England (AP) — The soccer game nobody wanted to stage passed off peacefully Sunday as Leeds United beat the part-timers of Telford 2-1 in the third round of the English F.A. Cup with a late goal from Ian Baird.

Baird scored his second goal of the match with just four minutes remaining after the plucky Telford team had threatened an upset.

After Colin Williams had equalized Baird's early strike, Telford three times went close to pulling off a major giant-killing against the one-time aristocrats of English soccer.

But the Second Division side advanced to the fourth round of the competition despite fears that its notorious fans might cause trouble at the match.

Originally to have been held at Telford's tiny Buck's Head Ground, officials ruled the semi-professional team's stadium was unfit to cope with an influx of Leeds supporters and could not be properly policed.

When several league clubs close to Telford refused to take the game because of the reputation of the Leeds fans, it had to be switched 32 kilometres to the Hawthorns, home of Second Division West Bromwich Albion in the English midlands.

Sunday's attendance was restricted by ticket-only admission. That, and the freezing weather, kept the crowd down to 6,560.

Swiss slide to bobsled title

ST. MORITZ, Switzerland (AP) — Switzerland's Ralph Pichler and Celest Poltera on Sunday won the Two-man Bobsled World Championships to break a three-year East German hold on the title.

In a thrill-packed windup of the two-day competition, the Swiss team turned in the fastest final run for a four-beat total of 4 minutes, 33.09 seconds.

Sharing second place, 36 seconds behind, was another Swiss sled, driven by Hans Hiltbrand and braked by Andre Kiser, and East Germany's 1984 Olympic gold medalists and triple world champions, Wolfgang Hoppe and Dietmar Schauerhammer.

The number one Soviet sled, piloted by Janis Kipurs, took fourth place, 1.40 seconds behind, followed by West Germany I, with Anton Fischer at the controls. Britain I, with driver Nick Phipps and brakeman Alan Cams, was a surprise sixth.

Light but steady snowfall did not allow for new records on the twisting, icy chute, 1,585 metres long and with a drop of 130 metres.

Thirty-six sleds from 36 nations were entered in the races, the last top test before the Olympics.

Italy's Oliva retains welterweight title

AGRIGENTO, Sicily (R) — Unbeaten Italian Patrizio Oliva retained his World Boxing Association (WBA) junior-welterweight title Saturday night by outpointing Rodolfo Gonzalez of Mexico.

It was the second WBA title fight defeat for Gonzalez, who still bears the scars of a near-fatal car crash five years ago. In 1981, he lost to Claude Noel of Trinidad at lightweight.

Oliva, winner of all his 47 bouts, began in his customary cool fashion, sidestepping and ducking the Mexican's sharp and constant attacks.

Gonzalez came strongly out of his corner in the early stages but always had problems in pinning down his elusive opponent.

In the seventh round — the round Gonzalez had predicted the champion would fall — the former shoeshine boy from Mexico City floored his opponent with a swinging left to Oliva's head after

a subtle feint with his right. But Oliva came out stronger than ever in the next round and the Mexican gradually lost his aggression.

In the 11th round the end began to loom for Gonzalez when a stinging blow from Oliva opened up a cut over the Mexican's left eye that was later joined by another over his right.

Venezuelan referee Isidro Rodriguez stopped the fight in the 13th round as blood oozed increasingly down both sides of the Mexican's face.

But Gonzalez was declared fit to continue and recovered well in the 14th.

The judges decided 145-139, 147-142 and 145-147 in favour of the champion.

"I did not lose," Gonzalez said later. "Oliva did not play fair and was always using his elbows."

"I have invited Oliva to fight me in Mexico or Los Angeles and we will see how he does there."

India beats Sri Lanka to level 5 match series

GAUHATI, India (AP) — India once again exploited Sri Lanka's vulnerability against spin to win the second limited overs international by 8 wickets here Sunday and level the five match series 1-1.

India restricted Sri Lanka to 145 for eight in 46 overs after sending it in to bat on a wicket conducive to spin bowling.

India cantered home easily in the 28th over thanks to an unbeaten 98 run partnership for the third wicket between Sunil Gavaskar and Dilip Vengsarkar.

Gavaskar, test cricket's most prolific scorer but still looking for his first century in limited overs cricket, remained 70 not out, while Vengsarkar continued his good form against the Sri Lankans with a polished unbeaten 43.

Sri Lanka had won the first international at Kanpur on Dec. 24 but the loss in the Nagpur and Cuttack test preceding the Gauhati international means it will have to produce something extraordinary to win the remaining three internationals, at Delhi, Baroda and Bombay.

Skipper Duleep Mendis (51), Roy Dias (26) and Ranjan Mudagalle (22 not out) were the only Sri Lankan batsmen to offer any resistance against the rampaging Indian spinners who claimed five of the seven wickets which fell to the bowlers in the Sri Lanka innings.

Off spinner Shival Yadav justified captain Kapil Dev's decision to play three spinners here bagging two for 18 in 9 overs. Left arm spinners Maninder Singh (1 for 30) and Ravi Shastri (2 for 28) supported Yadav well as Sri Lanka failed to set a reasonable target for its spinners to take advantage of.

Gavaskar and Vengsarkar stroked freely against the unimpressive Sri Lanka bowling after opener Krishnamachari, Srikanth and Raman Lamba had fallen early.

The match was reduced to 46 overs a side after 45 minutes were lost in the morning due to the heavy moisture on the wicket.

The teams now travel to Delhi for the third international on Tuesday.

Japan wins 3 golds at junior judo tourney

TOKYO (AP) — Japanese judoka won three gold medals in the individual events while East German took one gold Sunday, in the final day of the 5th Shoriki Cup international collegiate judo tournament.

The three golds bring to six the number of gold medals Japan won in individual events in the two-day tournament. East Germany was the only other country to earn the gold.

In the team events, the Soviet Union on Saturday won a gold medal. Japan was second.

In Sunday's matches at the Nippon Budokan Hall, Henry Stocher of East Germany downed

Japan's Naoya Ogawa by "Yusei" or decision in the final of the open-class to capture top place for his first championship of this tournament.

Ogawa finished in second place and Grigory Verichev of the Soviet Union came in third.

In the Japanese vs. Japanese final of the 65-kilogramme class, Kenji Maruyama beat Masahiko Ohkuma by Yusei to earn the gold medal. Ohkuma received the silver medal and Japan's Akihiko Ohsaki won the bronze.

The 78-kilogramme (171 lb) class title went to Japan's Fumitaka Kaburagi who defeated Ryoichi Matsuda by Yusei.

FLOOR FOR RENT

Consisting of three bedrooms, three salons, three bathrooms, two verandas and total surface area of 250 square metres. Telephone and separate central heating available.

Location: Jabal Amman, between 4th and 5th Circles, behind residence of Prime Minister Zaid Rifai.

For more information call: 669900

NCR

FOR ALL COMPUTER SUPPLIES

Ribbons, rolls, discs, cleaning materials, power conditioners and stabilisers.

Call: N.C.R. corporation, tel: 621101 - 637199

FOR SALE

By sealed bid; used furniture, appliances, office equipment, etc. at the American Embassy warehouse, 7th Circle, on January 15th and 16th, 8:30 to 4:00 each day. Refundable 20% deposit on all bids.

Call 813866 for information

CAR FOR SALE

Duty unpaid 1982 Mercedes 200T station

Excellent condition, 32,000 KM, Green metallic colour. Central lock, tinted glass, 2 side mirrors. Radio & cassette player, airconditioned, power steering and brakes.

Call: Foxboro Intercontinental Ltd.

Tel: 664417, Abdul Selem
From 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.



FOR RENT

A furnished or unfurnished apartment consisting of three bedrooms, two salons, verande, kitchen and two bathrooms. Location: Al Yermouk Engineers Housing suburb, Tlaa' Al Ali.

Call: 813004, Amman, after 3:00 p.m.

FOR RENT

Furnished and unfurnished apartments

Each consists of three bedrooms, two living rooms, dining room, kitchen, two baths and three balconies.

Central heating and telephones
Location: Shmeisani, near Birds Garden
Tel: 641443, 642351

DELUXE VILLA FOR RENT

Located in West Amman, near Int. Bachaloria School, Duplex 550 sq.m. built on 3000 sq.m., with telephone, central heating, panoramic view.

For more information call: 605842

FOR RENT

Furnished or Unfurnished

Three bedroomed apartment with telephone, heating and all necessary equipment. First floor, Al Hussein housing suburb.

Call: 669141

FOR SALE

CAR: 1983 Chrysler New Yorker. Full range of accessories. Duty NOT paid. JD 2,000.
PIANO: Zimmerman (German) upright, 10-month old, condition as new, JD 950.

Telephone 845234 - 810213

UNFURNISHED VILLA FOR RENT

Consist of four bedrooms, 3 salons, dining room, kitchen, garden, telephone, central heating, solar system, central antenna, and garage.

Location: Shmeisani, near Middle East Hotel.
Please call: 641430

FOR RENT

Beautifully furnished 3 bedroom apartment, with wall to wall carpeting, independent central heating. Complete kitchen appliances including: washer, dryer, dishwasher. Also telephones, T.V., V.C.R.

Unfurnished 3 bedroom apt. also available.

Inquiries - 662337

FURNISHED APARTMENT FOR RENT

A newly furnished deluxe apartment consisting of three bedrooms, salon, dining room, veranda and utilities with telephone and all electrical appliances.

Location: Shmeisani
Call: 669205

FURNISHED APARTMENT FOR RENT

Deluxe apartment consisting of two bedrooms, salon, kitchen, two baths with independent C.H. and telephone. Location: Opposite Shmeisani bookshop
Please call: 663981

Cinema **CONCORD** Tel: 677420
YOUNG BLOOD
Performances 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema **RAINBOW** Tel: 625153
JUST ONE OF THE GUYS
Performances 3:15, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema **OPERA** Tel: 675573
HELL CAMP
Performances 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema **PLAZA** Tel: 677420
HOLD UP
Performances 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema **RAGHADAN** Tel: 622198
VICTORY
Performances 12:15, 3:30, 5:00, 9:45

Weekly Financial Report

By Fouad Batshon

The following report summarises trading activities in Amman of major European and Arab currencies as well as gold prices. The writer is a foreign exchange dealer at Halim Salfiti and Sons Co.

AMMAN — Last week the dollar has performed quietly, sliding to the lower side regarding the Deutschmark (DM), the Swiss franc (SF) and the Japanese yen. It slipped below 0.340 fils on the Jordanian Dinar (JD) to reach a low of 0.339 fils.

Activity in the Jordanian market has slowed down throughout 1986 and reactivated in the beginning of 1987. The latest rates quoted for the JD against the dollar were between 0.343 fils to 0.346 fils. The ranges for the dollar/JD this week are expected to be 0.344-348.

Trading in the European currencies

The pound sterling has improved from a low of 0.5020 fils to 0.5085 fils. This improvement was in reaction for expected higher oil prices and better interest rates in the U.K.

The DM, SF and yen moved to record highs in the new year in reaction to a weaker dollar and unexpected relatively lower economic performances in the United States in the previous year in addition to the deepening

budget deficit figures released at the end of December 1986.

The European currencies have moved higher on the JD despite a stronger JD at the end of December.

The DM traded between 0.171 fils to 0.181 fils, the SF traded between 0.2085 to 0.2115 fils and the yen between 0.00125 to 0.00215 fils.

Trading in metals

Gold has jumped to a high of \$406 an ounce in New York from a low of \$398.25 an ounce last week. Silver improved to \$5.50 an ounce from a low of \$5.35 an ounce.

Expected trading ranges for this week are as follows:
Gold \$402 - \$412 an ounce
Silver \$5.40 - \$5.60 an ounce.

Trading in Arab currencies

Lebanese lira (LL) scored a new low to the dollar hitting LL 96 but closed last week at the level of 87 to the dollar (210 to the JD) and if the political situation keeps on deteriorating the lira is expected to slide further down.

Gold prices in Amman, based on the daily bulletin provided by the Jordan Jewelry Store, are as follows:

Gold per gramme 21 carats JD 3.75 - JD 3.90
Gold per gramme 18 carats JD 3.30 - JD 3.95.

WHO may cut activities because of cash crisis

GENEVA (R) — The World Health Organisation (WHO) may have to cut about one-tenth of planned future activities because of an expected \$50 million shortfall in contributions from its 166 member states, its top official said.

In a report on the United Nations agency's budget for 1988-89, WHO Director General Halim Mahler of Denmark said this was due to a current financial crisis affecting the United Nations which he assumed would continue throughout these two years.

The proposed budget to finance WHO programmes aimed at combating disease and raising health levels worldwide during this period totalled \$636.9 million, Mr. Mahler said.

"But unless a radical change takes place, a huge shortfall in

income from contributions is to be expected and it will most probably not be possible to carry out at least 10 per cent of the proposed programme activities because of lack of funds," he added.

Mr. Mahler estimated the lag in future contributions at \$1 million, and said \$35 million had been cut provisionally from the current 1986-87 budget because of the financial crisis.

His report will be discussed at a two-week session of the WHO executive board opening here on Monday.

Mr. Mahler said the WHO had been the first U.N. body to identify and remedy administrative shortcomings, and it was "now being unfairly victimised because of financial and other strictures imposed on the United Nations as a whole."

N. Sea oil output declines

LONDON (OPECNA) — Latest figures on North Sea oil production have shown the first annual decline in output from the U.K. sector since oil first came onstream.

Figures released here by the Royal Bank of Scotland show that average output in 1986 ranged between 2.5 million and 2.6 million barrels per day, one per cent below the 1985 average.

The bank has predicted that some 10,000 jobs could be saved in Scotland if oil production cuts agreed by OPEC were able to hold North Sea oil prices close to \$20 a

barrel. The bank, however, forecast that "if the oil price remains low and volatile, 33,000 jobs could be lost, of which up to 18,000 would directly involve the oil industry."

It said: "If OPEC manages to limit production to about 16 million b/d under the latest agreement, and to establish fixed prices of about \$18 a barrel, the price of North Sea oil ... could stabilise at \$20 a barrel."

The bank said that at \$20 a barrel, some North Sea fields that had seemed uneconomical had started to look attractive again.

Study predicts high need for workers in Mideast

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Despite the oil slump, Middle Eastern countries will need about 1.5 million more foreign workers over the next five years to maintain necessary economic growth, a Philippine government study says.

The study, published over the weekend, said manpower requirements by Saudi Arabia and other major oil states will be great enough to prevent any major slump in the number of Asians finding jobs in that region.

The study, by the Philippines Overseas Employment Administration (POEA), noted that Saudi Arabia will require 200,000 new migrant workers by 1990, 60 per cent of whom hold professional jobs.

POEA predicted that the percentage of foreigners in the work force of Bahrain will have to increase from the current 58 per cent to 61 per cent if the country is to prevent economic growth from falling below five per cent.

The study said other oil states in the Middle East face similar requirements. The manpower requirements are greatest in the Gulf Cooperation Council

countries, which include Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman, the United Arab Emirates and Qatar.

The Middle East employs most of the estimated 250,000 Filipinos working abroad.

Another government report said that although the overall economy in the Philippines grew slightly in 1986, industrial production declined by 3.7 per cent and investments fell by 15 per cent.

The National Economic Development Authority said that gains made in the country's gross national product were offset by a 2.4 per cent increase in population to 56 million people.

The report said last year's 0.1 per cent increase in the country's economic output reversed the decline of the previous two years, but full economic recovery will depend on continuing political stability, renegotiation of the \$26 billion foreign debt and implementation of more reforms.

Foreign business sources blame the lack of investment of fears of political instability over negotiations with communist rebels

NEWS IN BRIEF

Tourism to London drops by 11 per cent

LONDON (R) — One million fewer tourists visited London in 1986 than in the previous year because of the comparative strength of the British currency and fears of terrorism, the London Tourist Board said last week. "It is estimated that 8.1 million will have visited London from overseas during 1986, a decline of 11 per cent on the record of 9.1 million during 1985," it said in a statement. A Tourist Board spokesman said Americans accounted for only 23 per cent of visitors in 1986 compared with 34 per cent in 1985. The drop in American visitors was in line with the overall trend.

Pan Am to resume flights to Pakistan

KARACHI (AP) — Pan American World Airways (Pan Am) plans to resume flights to Pakistan later this month after suspending its flights following the hijacking of an airliner in Karachi last year. Pan Am spokesman, Mr. Viraf Daroga, said the service will resume Jan. 17 with two flights a week through Karachi. The airline will monitor new security conditions at Karachi airport before deciding whether to return to its previous schedule of six flights a week, he said.

'Smuggling hinders Bangladeshi economy'

DHAKA (R) — President Hossain Mohammad Ershad said smuggling and growing use of drugs had almost ruined Bangladesh's economy and flawed its social life. "Smuggling has hindered industrialisation and development pursuits, forced many small industries to shut down and created unemployment, indiscipline and anarchy," he said in a speech Saturday. "It is a heinous crime... and has threatened our very survival as a respected nation," he added. President Ershad urged police and the public to fight smugglers to save the nation from complete ruin. He said markets were flooded with smuggled goods including drugs which had enslaved about 20,000 of the country's youth.

Canada denies oil deal with U.S.

MEXICO CITY (R) — Canadian Energy Minister Marcel Masse dismissed reports his country and the United States were discussing forming an oil production cartel — possibly to include Mexico and Venezuela — to rival OPEC. "They are just baseless rumours," he told a news conference after talks with his Mexican counterpart, Mr. Alfredo Del Mazo. Mr. Del Mazo did not appear at the news conference and there was no announcement of Mexico's expected crude export cut to 1.25 million barrels per day from the current 1.35 million barrels per day.

IEA sees 1.5 per cent increase in Western oil consumption during 1987

PARIS (R) — Oil consumption in Western industrialised countries is likely to rise in 1987 but at a slower rate than in recent years, according to International Energy Agency (IEA) forecasts released Monday.

Oil use in the 24 member countries of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) will increase by 1.5 per cent in the first nine months of this year after a 2.5 per cent rise for the year 1986 to 34.8 million barrels per day (b/d), the IEA said in its latest monthly oil market report.

Current expectations are that OECD oil consumption will rise by about two per cent in the first quarter of this year to 36 million b/d, slow down to a one per cent rise in the second quarter before picking up again in the third quarter.

The IEA report, based on the assumption that oil product prices remained at current levels and weather patterns were normal, said second quarter consumption would be slower as companies were expected to reduce stockpiles built up last year.

The IEA noted that consumption was relatively stable in the Pacific last year while there was a two per cent year-on-year increase in North America and a four per cent rise in Europe.

But despite recent growth, OECD oil use last year was still nearly seven million b/d below the 1979 peak, mainly because of lower heavy fuel oil sales, it said.

Use of heavy fuel oil, for industry, power stations, heavy vehicles and shipping, was expected to continue to decline this year as natural gas was projected to regain much of the market it lost to heavy fuel in the United States and Europe in 1986.

Malta, Libya sign \$150m trade pact

VALLETTA (R) — Malta and Libya reached a trade agreement last week covering exports totalling \$150 million during 1987, an industry ministry official said.

Under the agreement Malta will export \$90 million worth of products and services to Libya and import oil and other goods worth \$60 million, the official said.

The agreement came at the end of talks between Libyan Industry Minister Hassan Abd Al Ad Al Barghathi and Maltese Industry Minister Karmenu Vella. The agreement is part of a trade pact signed between the two countries in December 1984 and ratified recently.

The official said Malta's exports to Libya would be \$60 million worth of manufactured goods and \$30 million in services. Most of its \$60 million worth of imports from Libya would be oil.

Latest available figures show that in 1985 Malta's exports to Libya totalled \$32.1 million with imports from there totalling just over \$640,000.

quarters.

The report said total OPEC crude production in fourth quarter 1986 was 16.9 million b/d, approximately matching OPEC's effective ceiling for the period, compared with 19.3 million the previous quarter and 17.0 million in October-December 1985.

It said the output drop was due to overproduction by Arab Gulf states being largely offset by underproduction in Iran because of damage to oil installations from the war with Iraq.

This compared with 426 million tonnes and 93 days on Jan. 1 last year.

Company stocks on land in the OECD on Jan. 1, 1987 were put around 342 million tonnes, representing 75 days of forward consumption, 13 million tonnes higher than a year earlier.

The IEA said that company stocks were estimated to have declined by 1.1 million b/d in the last three months of 1987 after increasing by 1.1 million b/d and two million b/d in the second and third quarters, respectively.

Oil stocks on land in the United States and Canada on Jan. 1, 1987 were estimated at 217.1 million tonnes, representing 98 days of forward consumption, against 208.7 million and 94 days on July 1, 1986 and 206.2 million and 94 days on Jan. 1, 1986.

In Europe, stocks on land on Jan. 1 were put at 154.1 million tonnes, giving 75 days of forward consumption, compared with 146 million and 96 days on July 1, 1986 and 148.4 million and 90 days on Jan. 1, 1986.

The report gave no estimates for OPEC output for this year but the data suggest non-OPEC world demand for OPEC crude in January-March 1987 of 18.5 million b/d, market experts said.

This compares with OPEC's recently-agreed ceiling of 15.8 million b/d for the first and second

quarters.

The report said total OPEC crude production in fourth quarter 1986 was 16.9 million b/d, approximately matching OPEC's effective ceiling for the period, compared with 19.3 million the previous quarter and 17.0 million in October-December 1985.

It said the output drop was due to overproduction by Arab Gulf states being largely offset by underproduction in Iran because of damage to oil installations from the war with Iraq.

This compared with 426 million tonnes and 93 days on Jan. 1 last year.

Company stocks on land in the OECD on Jan. 1, 1987 were put around 342 million tonnes, representing 75 days of forward consumption, 13 million tonnes higher than a year earlier.

The IEA said that company stocks were estimated to have declined by 1.1 million b/d in the last three months of 1987 after increasing by 1.1 million b/d and two million b/d in the second and third quarters, respectively.

Oil stocks on land in the United States and Canada on Jan. 1, 1987 were estimated at 217.1 million tonnes, representing 98 days of forward consumption, against 208.7 million and 94 days on July 1, 1986 and 206.2 million and 94 days on Jan. 1, 1986.

In Europe, stocks on land on Jan. 1 were put at 154.1 million tonnes, giving 75 days of forward consumption, compared with 146 million and 96 days on July 1, 1986 and 148.4 million and 90 days on Jan. 1, 1986.

The report gave no estimates for OPEC output for this year but the data suggest non-OPEC world demand for OPEC crude in January-March 1987 of 18.5 million b/d, market experts said.

This compares with OPEC's recently-agreed ceiling of 15.8 million b/d for the first and second

strategy worked out in Geneva last month in a bid to attain higher petroleum prices.

The sources told Reuters the Norwegian government would probably announce its decision to cut output this week, and the curbs would probably be enforced from all major Norwegian fields for the first six months of 1987, the sources told Reuters.

An oil and energy ministry spokesman declined to say whether Norway would make the cut, but said an announcement would probably be made this week.

Oil companies which would bear much of the cost of reduced production have objected strongly to curbing output, but the government has legislation it can use to enforce reduced production from Norway's six offshore oilfields.

Norway's daily output is more than one million b/d.

Britain, producing around 2.6 million b/d, is Western Europe's largest producer, but unlike Norway has refused to cooperate with OPEC efforts to hike world crude prices.

OPEC last month agreed to cut its group output to 15.8 million b/d, a 7.25 per cent reduction, for the first six months of this year.

Norway reduced crude exports by ten per cent in November and December by storing oil paid to the state as a royalty tax, but its storage capacity is now exhausted.

Oil and Energy Minister Arne Oeien said last month Norway would consider further cooperation with OPEC if the group took concrete measures to increase prices. The OPEC decision added more than \$3 to the price of a barrel, bringing it to its current levels around \$18.

Indian premier accuses public sector of 'robbing the poor'

CALCUTTA, India (AP) — Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi accused India's public sector of "robbing the poor," and said it was giving socialism a bad name.

In Calcutta on a campaign trip Saturday, Mr. Gandhi said the public sector would continue to play a major role in India's economy, but warned that the sprawling public sector must become efficient and reduce its dependence on government subsidies and other socialist protectionism.

"Some people say that such subsidy is socialism," Mr. Gandhi said. "I call it robbing the poor, since it is they who ultimately have to bear the brunt of such unproductive expenditure."

Mr. Gandhi said he opposed the demand by some socialists to nationalise unprofitable public sector industries.

"This also is not socialism as some people would want me to believe," he said. "What is the point in spending money for the benefit of a handful of people when the same amount could be

effectively utilised to improve the conditions of many more?"

Mr. Gandhi has said he is neither a doctrinaire capitalist nor a dogmatic socialist, but rather someone seeking the most productive mixed economy to help India develop.

When Mr. Gandhi took office more than two years ago, some observers labelled him a capitalist after he announced wide ranging economic reforms.

But Mr. Gandhi has had to roll back some reforms in the face of protests from parts of India's noncompetitive public sector.

Despite his initial rhetoric about giving more emphasis to the private sector, his government has invested heavily in the public enterprises and he has shown himself to be as much a socialist as his late mother and predecessor, Indira Gandhi.

Meanwhile a national study said that under India's rural anti-poverty programme the poor are getting poorer, the United News of India reported Sunday. A new report by the National

Labour Institute said that India's integrated rural development programme has pushed its participants further below the poverty line.

It cited widespread mismanagement of the programme and said that the poorest people often were deliberately excluded while relatively better off households were helped.

The study was based on sample villages in tribal Jhabua district in central Madhya Pradesh, India's largest state. It called state assistance "counterproductive."

The report said a majority of the "beneficiaries" solvent before joining the anti-poverty plan, are indebted because of anti-poverty loans.

The study blamed lapses in identifying the poor bad selection of anti-poverty plans and inadequate implementation.

It said that some of the participants owned as many as 12 acres of land, but 50 per cent of the landless households were not covered by any programme.

Horoscope not received

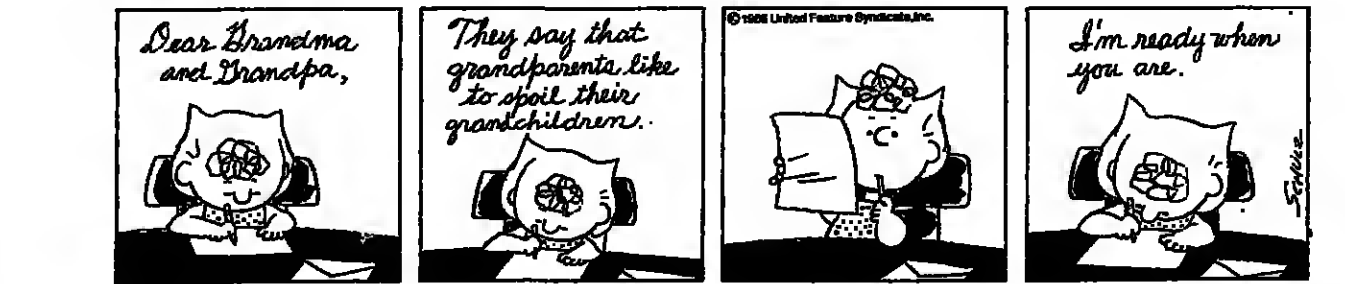
THE Daily Crossword by Martha J. DeWitt

ACROSS
1 Crime
6 — noise
10 Surface a speed
14 Corpulent
15 Author unknown for about
16 Suffered
17 Stations
18 Polaris
20 Plovers
21 Clumps of ivy
23 Showers spots
24 Bullheads
25 Spitting fool
27 Boxed
29 In shirt sleeves
33 Lagenorpha
34 Labor
35 Five
36 Do sums
37 Peppery note
40 Former Fr. coin
41 London's night club area
42 Spots
44 Aquarium fish
45 Mammoth
48 Eagle's claws
49 Fibre for rope
50 New neighbor
51 Circuits
54 Embodiment
56 Go out
58 Site of Notre Dame II
60 Gandhi's land
62 Uter
63 Indian
64 Scepter
65 Transmut
66 Performa outstandingly
67 Ancestral features

DOWN
1 Wind robbers
2 Woodwind
3 Kingsley novel
4 Superlative
5 Unweary

6 Companies
7 Baseballer
8 Slaughter
9 Cray
10 Captivate
11 Pale colors
12 Comedian
13 Johnson
14 Ampoule
15 Com suits
16 Owl tail
17 Dated
18 Had dinner
19 Stoozes
20 Face on a \$10,000 bill
21 Hawk gun
22 Aquatic birds
23 Salsbeck story
24 Sneer at
25 Jaegers
26 Sport fish
27 Medieval weapon
28 Transporting
29 Circled the earth
30 Yellow stuff
31 Subj.
32 Gr. letter
33 Clippers
34 Snakes
35 Post
36 Sashes
37 Winter white
38 Wolf
39 Choir member
40 No's WWH command
41 Bom

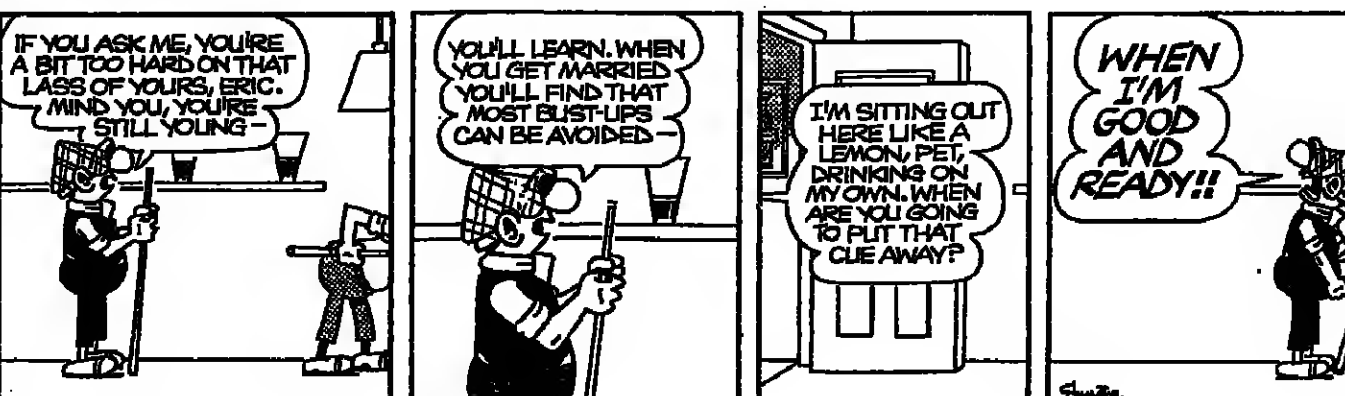
Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



"If they can do heart and liver transplants, why can't they do a charm transplant?"

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

YONIR
PEXLE
POWDL
YUGLT

WHAT HAPPENED WHEN THE PRICE OF DUCK FEATHERS INCREASED?

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: O O O O W E N T O O

Yesterday's Jumbles: IMBUE BUSHY MORTAR GULLET
Answer: Another name for a pirate ship — A "THUG" BOAT

Marcos supporters, leftists rally against constitution

Aquino urges 'yes' vote in plebiscite

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Thousands of supporters of ex-President Ferdinand Marcos burned copies of the draft constitution Sunday, and leftists marched through the streets denouncing the charter as "anti-people."

Meanwhile, President Corason Aquino urged modest but enthusiastic crowds in three cities of central and southern Luzon to vote "yes" in the Feb. 2 constitutional plebiscite.

Some 3,000 loyalists chanted "Marcos, Marcos" as rally leaders tossed copies of the draft constitution into a fire during a boisterous rally in suburban Quezon city.

Speakers told the crowd the constitution "stinks," and one of them said it "will cause much hardship not only to our generation but to our children's children."

Later, some 5,000 delegates to a conference of the Movement of the Proletarians marched through Manila after approving a resolution opposing ratification.

The group, affiliated with the leftist Bayan (country) Movement, claimed the charter is "full of anti-people provisions and strengthens the control of foreign interests in the country's politics." The charter was completed last October by an Aquino-appointed commission.

Spokesman Lito Villar claimed his group was an alliance of 500

located some 80 kilometres north of Manila.

Afterward, she addressed about 1,500 people in Malolos, capital of Bulacan province, and then left for a third rally in Lucena city in Quezon province.

Local government officials expressed confidence in a strong "yes" vote in Angeles City.

But the crowd was considerably smaller than the estimated 50,000 supporters who greeted her in Angeles City shortly before the Feb. 25 overthrow of President Ferdinand Marcos.

Hours before her arrival, about 150 leftists arrived at the rally site carrying banners demanding the release of Communist leader Rodolfo Salas. Salas was arrested Sept. 29 in Manila and charged with rebellion.

The release of Salas is among 10 "priority" demands being made by the rebel National Democratic Front (NDF), which is negotiating an end to the 18-year Communist rebellion.

A police lieutenant tried to block the leftists from entering the grounds but relented after they assured him they were not there to campaign for rejection of the constitution.

At the Angeles City rally, Mrs. Aquino expressed her "heartfelt thanks for helping me ratify this new constitution so that the true democracy we attained in the February revolution will be maintained."

Hundreds killed as Burmese truce crumbles

RANGOON (R) — More than 760 Communist rebels and Burmese government troops have been killed during the past two months in heavy fighting near the Chinese border, official reports said Sunday.

The reports said fighting erupted on Nov. 16 when a 1,500-strong Burmese Communist Party (BCP) force broke an unofficial 16-year truce and launched a surprise assault on government positions in north-east Burma.

Isolated mountain camps at Hsi Hsi Wan and Ta Pang but were forced to withdraw when the government counter-attacked.

The reports, published in official newspapers, said 175 government soldiers and 591 rebels were killed.

Burmese state radio said some 18 major battles and 20 additional clashes had taken place since November and fighting still continued with government forces in pursuit of fleeing rebels.

The radio, monitored in Bangkok, said the army sent two light infantry divisions from its North East Military Command to recapture the positions and last week widened the battles by routing guerrillas from their stronghold at Kyaukok on the Sino-Burmese border.

The newspapers said army Chief of Staff Gen. Saw Maung visited Kyaukok and other combat areas Saturday and Friday.

Informed sources said the latest fighting was reminiscent of large-scale clashes in the area involving thousands of government and Communist forces in the late 1970s.

Prior to the latest flare-up of fighting, military engagements mostly involved small guerrilla skirmishes.

The attack on Hsi Hsi Wan and Ta Pang broke an unofficial 16-year truce in the area between the government and the Communists, who are militarily the strongest among dozens of rebel groups who have been fighting the central government since Burma gained independence from Britain in 1948.

Secret talks between the government and the BCP broke down in 1981 over what officials and diplomats in Rangoon said were unacceptable Communist demands, including virtual autonomy for BCP-held areas in the Shan state near the Chinese border.

Tutu says justice is not a political demand

MELBOURNE, Australia (Agencies) — Archbishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa on Sunday said the call for justice by anti-apartheid activists was a moral rather than a political demand.

"To demand justice is not a political demand, but a religious demand," said Tutu, winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, addressing 1,500 people at St. Paul's Cathedral.

"We want our righteous rulers — who are not God — if you do not give justice to our people you will bite the dust," he said.

Tutu, on a 12-day visit as guest of the United Church National Council of Youth, also spoke of children who had been detained in jails since June, some as young as 11 years old.

"How could an 11-year-old threaten a political state with as powerful a military as South Africa?" he asked.

Tutu said he condemned a system which said the worth of person depended on his colour, where communities were uprooted and people forced to relocate because of their colour and where a state of emergency blocked people from seeing "what continues to happen, where the brutality of the state is turned on peaceful protesters."

Tutu called for an end to the state of emergency, the release of political prisoners and for all parties to be able to go to the negotiating table.

Meanwhile a black man was burned to death in South Africa's biggest township as political violence continued in spite of new

government measures, the government's Bureau for Information said Sunday.

It said the victim was killed in Soweto township, near Johannesburg, Saturday when unidentified attackers put a burning tyre round his neck.

The same gruesome method of killing — known as the "necklace" — has been used to kill scores of people in black townships since the present wave of violence began nearly three years ago.

Many of those killed in this way have been accused by black radicals of collaborating with the white minority government.

Last week, the government stepped up its efforts to stamp out the violence by banning the promotion of plans by anti-apartheid activists for alternative education for black schools.

It also imposed restrictions on reports about the outlawed African National Congress (ANC), the main black nationalist organisation fighting to end white rule.

In a separate development, the country's two largest English newspaper chains told the government Saturday they will challenge in court new restrictions that bar reporting on the African National Congress and other outlawed organisations.

The new restrictions were issued Thursday after newspapers across the country had published paid advertisements marking the 75th anniversary of the ANC under the headline, "urban the ANC."

Elephant crushes his handler at zoo

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) — An animal handler at the Fort Worth Zoo was crushed to death when a 4-tonne elephant knocked him to the ground and stepped on his head, officials said. Michael Bell, 35, of Fort Worth, who had worked at the zoo, was pronounced dead at the scene, said Ken Seleske, the zoo's assistant supervisor of education. Seleske said it was the first fatal accident in the zoo's 78-year history. Bell was stepped on about 1 p.m. (1900 GMT) by Sam, an elephant in his early 20s who arrived at the zoo's new breeding facility last April from the International Wildlife Park in nearby Grand Prairie. The elephant knocked Bell to the ground with his trunk as Bell and another elephant keeper, John Leggett, were moving the zoo's seven elephants indoors, said Dr. William Kirksey, veterinarian for the Fort Worth Zoo.

Press applauds ban on headscarf

ANKARA (R) — President Kenan Evren has won backing from Turkey's biggest-selling newspaper for a strong attack on Islamic extremists amid continuing protests over a ban on women students covering their heads in classes. Gen. Evren earlier this week warned the Muslim nation that what he termed "backward fundamentalism" posed a danger to Turkey and its secular constitution. He took a tough stand behind a controversial move by universities to ban women wearing the headscarf in class as a sign of religious observance. "Evren's words have expressed the views and fears of millions of Turkish people who have common sense," wrote a commentator in the newspaper Hurriyet. "He pointed out the real dimensions of the threat hidden underneath." In Ankara, 60 female students were not allowed into classes Friday because they were covering their heads. In Istanbul, 20 young women were asked to leave classes and 15 students got warnings in the eastern Erzurum University for wearing scarves on the campus, press reports said.

Jakarta bars entry to AIDS carriers

JAKARTA (R) — Indonesia is refusing entry to foreigners suspected of carrying the deadly AIDS virus, Health Minister Suwardjono Surjoningrat said. He was quoted by the official Antara News Agency as saying no confirmed case of AIDS — acquired immune deficiency syndrome — had been found so far in Indonesia and the government wanted to keep the country of 163 million people free from the killer disease. He said two foreign men were refused entry to Indonesia at Jakarta International Airport last month after they were reported by the Indonesian embassy in London to be affected by AIDS — a virus which kills by stripping the body of its natural defences against disease. Mr. Surjoningrat said a strict control on foreigners entering the country should be maintained through close cooperation between government agencies. The minister said that although one Jakarta patient had been suspected of having AIDS, analysis in the United States showed him to be free from the disease.

Kids question Thatcher on TV

LONDON (R) — Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher appeared on a popular children's television show and answered questions on subjects ranging from pop music to nuclear weapons. Young viewers put their questions to Mrs. Thatcher by telephone on the British Broadcasting Corp.'s "superstore" programme. Asked by one girl where she expected to be in the event of nuclear war, Mrs. Thatcher said, "London." But she parried a suggestion that she might have to be in a bunker, saying, "The whole point of having nuclear weapons is to stop a war of any kind." Nuclear weapons, she asserted, are "the best peace policy we have ever had." As to pop music, the British leader said: "I find it a little bit noisy... I like to have melody." Mrs. Thatcher said she enjoys "enormously" the television series, Yes, Prime Minister, which pokes fun at the government. She also discussed her plans for revamping the education system and said she would like to see more women in politics. Turning the tables, Mrs. Thatcher invited the children to send in replies to the question: "What would you most like to do if you were prime minister, and why?" She promised a visit to 10 Downing Street, the prime minister's office, for the three best entries.

Policeman saves 30 from disaster

WICKWAR, England (AP) — Sharp-nosed policeman Nick Shaw was the hero of his village Friday after leading 30 residents of the main street to safety an hour before a gas leak blew it up. The 29-year-old constable was coming home from working late at his post in the west England village when he smelled gas. He ran from door to door waking up neighbours and shepherding them to a community hall. One hour later gas from a burst main ignited and broke through the asphalt, sending 5-metre plumes of flame into the air. Roofs and walls collapsed and debris showered down. But no one was injured. "Quite simply, Nick was magnificent," said schoolteacher Don Gregory, who was led to safety by the policeman with his wife Rusty and cat Dillon. "I've been a policeman for seven years and it's just the sort of thing any police officer would have done," Shaw said. Shaw's own home was demolished, but he got his wife Louise to safety before the blast. About a dozen other homes were reported damaged.

Newspaper prints typewritten issue

MILAN, Italy (AP) — A major computer failure forced the Milan newspaper La Nove to print a typewritten afternoon edition. "We had to use the few typewriters left in the offices when our terminals and the high technology printing system collapsed," said editor Pietro Girogiani. The typewritten edition of a few pages was sold for 200 lire (15 cents) instead of the regular price of 700 lire (53 cents). The newspaper has a circulation of 130,000. Girogiani said all the 8,000 typewritten and xeroxed copies were sold.

Police officer sentenced to death

LAGOS (R) — A senior Nigerian police officer was sentenced to death by firing squad for protecting a notorious armed robber and sharing his loot. Police Deputy Superintendent George Iyamu, 48, was found guilty of supplying arms and information to help the robber in several attacks, the New Agency of Nigeria (NAN) said. Four young members of a gang led by Lawrence "the law" Anini, Nigeria's most notorious criminal, were also condemned to die by the tribunal in Benin city, east of Lagos.

Son convicted of killing father

LOS ANGELES (R) — A 24-year-old student was convicted of involuntary manslaughter for shooting dead his Texas multi-millionaire father. Ricky Kyle fought back tears when he was pronounced guilty of the involuntary manslaughter of Henry Kyle, a self-made tycoon who controlled coal mines, farms, a bank, restaurants and a television syndication company. Henry Kyle, 60, died to death in the dining room of his luxurious Los Angeles mansion in July, 1983, with a bullet hole in his back. Ricky Kyle at first claimed his father was shot by an intruder. But he later said he shot his father in self-defence because his father had fired first and intended to kill him. The jury of eight women and four men deliberated for 17 days before delivering its verdict. Kyle told reporters: "I don't know how the jury reached that decision. When my father fired at me I was totally justified in firing back."

Britain seals road after accident near arms depot

SALISBURY, England (AP) — Police and Royal Marines sealed off an icy country road near a weapons depot Saturday night after a truck in a military convoy skidded and turned over, witnesses said.

A defence spokesman for the opposition Labour Party said the convoy may have been carrying nuclear weapons.

"If that's the case, then this will be one of the most serious incidents involving nuclear material ever to have been made public," said the Labour Party's Martin O'Neill. "The fact that a military convoy should have set out at this time of year in the prevailing weather conditions almost defies reason or logic."

Local people speculated the 20-ton truck was carrying nuclear weapons from the Aldermaston Plant 56 kilometres away to the Royal Navy's Dean Hill arms depot at West Dean, 19 kilometres east of Salisbury.

Britain's domestic Press Association news agency quoted

Jaruzelski begins visit to Italy today

WARSAW, Poland (AP) — Polish leader Gen. Wojciech Jaruzelski makes his first official visit to a Western country in five years when he travels to Rome this week for talks with Italian officials and Pope John Paul II.

The trip begins Monday and inaugurates a crucial month of diplomatic contacts by Gen. Jaruzelski, who has been isolated politically by the West since he declared martial law and suppressed the Solidarity trade union movement in 1981.

As a further sign of improving relations with the West, Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone of Japan will pay visit Warsaw on Thursday and Friday, the first visit by a Japanese premier.

In addition, U.S. Deputy Secretary of State John Whitehead is expected to come to Poland in late January or early February for the highest-level U.S. visit since the military crackdown.

Although economic and trade matters are to be discussed in his talks with Italian officials, the Jaruzelski trip is also important symbolically for the Polish leader.

Gen. Jaruzelski has been stung by the cautious response from the United States and its allies to what Polish officials portray as significant steps toward political liberalisation since martial law was lifted in July 1983.

Italy and Poland this month signed an agreement rescheduling Polish debts to Italy.

Soviets appoint new arms negotiator

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Soviet Union, heading into new arms control talks with the United States, has replaced the head of its negotiating team with a high-ranking Foreign Ministry official, a senior U.S. official has said.

The Soviet's new chief negotiator is Yuri Vorontsov, first deputy foreign minister.

He takes over for Viktor Karpov, who has dealt with the U.S. negotiating team headed by Max Kampelman since the talks opened in Geneva 22 months ago.

With the next round starting on

Thursday, there is no indication of a breakthrough in the slow-moving negotiations to curb both medium- and long-range nuclear weapons and to consider restraints on space-based systems.

The administration official, who spoke on condition he not be named, said the United States had long privately urged the Soviets to appoint a high-level chief negotiator equivalent to Mr. Karpov and former Senator John Tower, who left the U.S. delegation last year.

The officials said the Reagan administration was pleased with

the change, which has not yet been formally announced.

Behind the scenes at the October summit meeting in Iceland, the chief of the Soviet Arms Forces, Marshal Sergei Akhromeyev, appeared to play a leading role in arms control discussion with American experts.

Some of U.S. officials came away convinced that Mr. Karpov lacked the authority to make major moves at the bargaining table. And one U.S. delegate, speaking after the Iceland summit ended, characterised Karpov as a propagandist.

Weinberger: Military must not be sacrificed to cut budget

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States has regained much of military strength it lost in the 1970s, but those gains cannot be sacrificed to reducing the deficit, Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger has said.

Mr. Weinberger, in annual report to Congress on the nation's military posture, described the Pentagon like proposed for the budget in fiscal 1988 as prudent and the emphasis on "star wars" research and the modernisation of nuclear weapons as essential.

But he also promised to strengthen special operations forces; disclosed an initiative aimed at improving private industry's ability to mobilise in a crisis, and warned the Pentagon was prepared to begin producing Asanti-satellite missiles in 1989 even if a ban on testing remained in place.

He also cited drug trafficking for the first time as a major threat to national security, acknowledged the navy and air force were still having trouble retaining experienced submariners and pilots, and pleaded for increased levels of economic and military assistance to allies.

In the forward to his report, however, Mr. Weinberger focused on the broad theme that has long marked his appeals to Congress: No matter how large the deficit, the Pentagon's budget must be tailored to meet the threats facing the country.

"In recent years, some in the Congress and elsewhere have

focused so sharply on reducing the federal deficit that they have mistakenly perceived the defence budget primarily as their most favoured target for budget cutting," Mr. Weinberger wrote.

Such thinking fails to comprehend either the real purposes of our defence spending plan, or the size and scope of the threats to our freedom posed by the Soviets' steadily increasing offensive military power.

The fiscal 1988 request for 7.7 per cent increase in military spending, to \$312 billion, is "modest," and necessary to "regain the momentum of our modernisation programme and protect the investments we have already made in our future security," he concluded.

Mr. Weinberger's 353-page report was released Saturday. He testifies Monday before the Senate Armed Services Committee in his first Capitol Hill appearance in support of President Ronald Reagan's budget request.

He is expected to focus on the broad aspects of American military strategy.

The Pentagon's budget requests have been sharply cut by Congress over the past two years and opposition Democratic leaders have already vowed to do the same in the 1988 spending plan.

Mr. Weinberger and Mr. Reagan particularly have come under fire for their continuing emphasis on nuclear weapons and Star Wars.

The defence secretary addressed that criticism Saturday,

With the deployment of new nuclear weapons such as the MX missile, Trident submarines and cruise missiles, the deterrent value of the nuclear arsenal has improved significantly, Mr. Weinberger said.

Thanks primarily to the Trident, "we have about 20 per cent more weapons able to retaliate after a Soviet attack than in fiscal 1980."

And thanks to the deployment of new cruise missiles, the nation's ability to threaten "hardened" Soviet targets has increased by roughly 120 per cent, he said.

By the late 1990s, however, a Star Wars anti-missile defence system could allow the United States to "move away from an almost exclusive reliance on offensive strategic forces" and thus must be properly funded, he said.

The budget calls for a 65 per cent increase in Star Wars funding, to \$5.8 billion. Star Wars is not a bargaining chip for arms control talks, Mr. Weinberger concluded.

"We will never give it up," he said.

As for the Asat programme, which involves the development of a small rocket that could be fired against low-orbiting satellites, Mr. Weinberger noted the Soviets already have a crude version of such a weapon.

"In fiscal 1989, we will begin producing the missiles," Mr. Weinberger vowed. "Further congressional restrictions on Asat

testing will, however, needlessly delay attaining an operational capability with the system."

Mr. Weinberger's unequivocal vow to begin producing Asat missiles was somewhat unusual, given the fact that Congress could block funding for such a move.

The defence secretary, in reviewing the military threats confronting the United States and its allies, offered the same grim view of past years.

The military balance in Europe remains adverse, he said. The Soviets continue to expand and modernise their forces in East Asia and Latin America remains threatened by "the massive Cuban and Nicaraguan build-up of conventional military forces," he said.

On the other hand, the economic growth of Japan and other Asian countries is helping to counter Soviet moves; the United States is in a much better position now to respond to emergencies in the Middle East, and the navy still provides "an overall maritime balance favourable to the United States."

Beyond the Soviet Union, the United States is most threatened by small-scale wars, terrorism and "the flow of illegal drugs," Mr. Weinberger wrote.

As one response to those threats, the Pentagon is asking for \$2.5 billion for special operations forces such as the Green Berets and Navy Seals in 1988, Mr. Weinberger said, more than five times what the United States spent on such forces in 1981.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OWEN SIEGAL
© 1986 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

GRAB YOUR CHANCE

Neither vulnerable. North deals.
NORTH
♠ 10 9 7
♥ A 8 7 6
♦ A 8 4
♣ A J 4

WEST EAST
♠ Q 8 2 ♠ J 4 3
♥ 9 6 4 ♥ 3 2
♦ K 10 3 2 ♦ Q J 9 8
♣ K 5 2 ♣ Q 10 8 3

SOUTH
♠ A K 6 5
♥ K Q J 10
♦ 7 6
♣ 9 7 6

The bidding:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♣ Pass
2 ♣ Pass 4 ♣ Pass
Pass Pass
Opening lead: Two of ♣

The Chairman of the Board (no, not Sinatra; Dick Frey, chairman of the Goren Editorial Board) has joined the host of bridge teachers and writers who are recommending five-card major opening bids. The new edition of his "How to Win at Contract Bridge in 10 Easy Lessons" (Fawcett Books, 305 pp., paperback, \$3.95) has been completely revised, in keeping with modern methods. One of its most

attractive features is its price — not many books make learning bridge so affordable.

Frey held the East cards in a recent rubber bridge game. North-South were using the methods Frey now propounds, and reached the excellent contract of four hearts.

However, one slip at trick one exposed declarer to defeat, but it was essential for Frey to take advantage of it immediately.

West led the unbid suit, and declarer saw no harm in playing low from dummy. Frey soon showed him the error of his ways. He won the jack of diamonds and, flying in the face of the rule against leading up to strength, shifted to a club.

West's king forced the ace, and the defense was a tempo ahead. He could not be kept off lead, and when declarer conceded a spade trick after drawing trumps, a club return netted the defenders two tricks in the suit for a one-trick set.

Note that declarer can land his contract by rising with the ace of diamonds at trick one. After drawing only two rounds of trumps, South cashes his high spades and concedes a trick in that suit. The 13th spade sets up for a club discard, and declarer loses only one trick in each side-suit.